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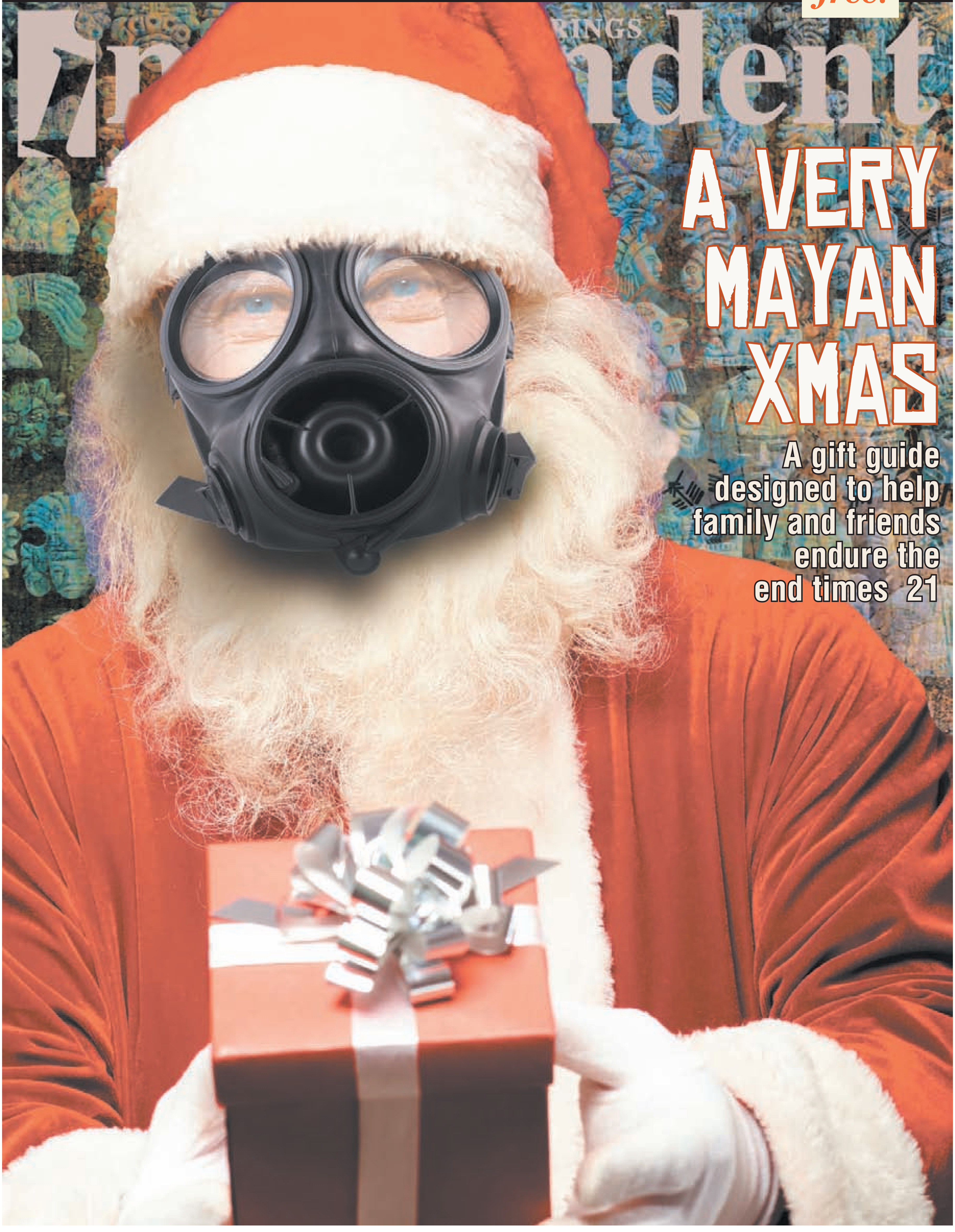

A VERY MAYAN XMAS

A gift guide designed to help family and friends endure the end times 21

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Colorado Springs' largest locally owned media company.
December 19-25, 2012 • Vol. 20, No. 51

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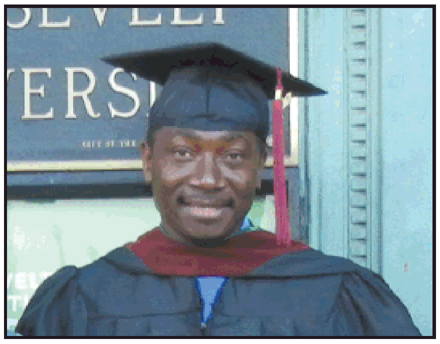
Former intern Achille Ngoma: mastering journalism.

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News: Fire proof

Just as the Waldo Canyon Fire pushed toward Colorado Springs city limits June 26, two tanker planes that had been bombarding the western border of the city with slurry flew off to another fire, El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa says.

Did their departure contribute to the Waldo fire's explosive growth into the city? Maybe, maybe not.

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7 Days to Live:

Selling the big picture

What if people came to Colorado Springs from all over the world just to look at the sides of our buildings, crawl around under bridges, and stare at ceilings?

That'd be weird.

Or maybe not.

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Reverb

So in our last column, you may recall our mentioning a number of local end-times shows taking place this Friday. Well, there's more where those came from. So if you're one of those folks whose final moments on Earth must be spent in the company of other local music fans, here are some additional doomsday shows to consider.

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On the Cover
Design by art director Kathy Conarro.

UpComing

You've got less than two weeks left to participate in the **2012 *Indy Give!* Campaign**.

The final deadline is midnight, Tuesday, Dec. 31. Fifty-eight local nonprofits are counting on your support — and you'll get some nifty rewards as a result.

Visit indygive.com to make a donation today!

---THIS WEEK'S FEATURED OFFER!---
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NYC-Style Pizza!
Garden of the Goods
goods.csindy.com

You ARE A Winner!

The Beach Boys: Pair of tickets
Katy Doerksen

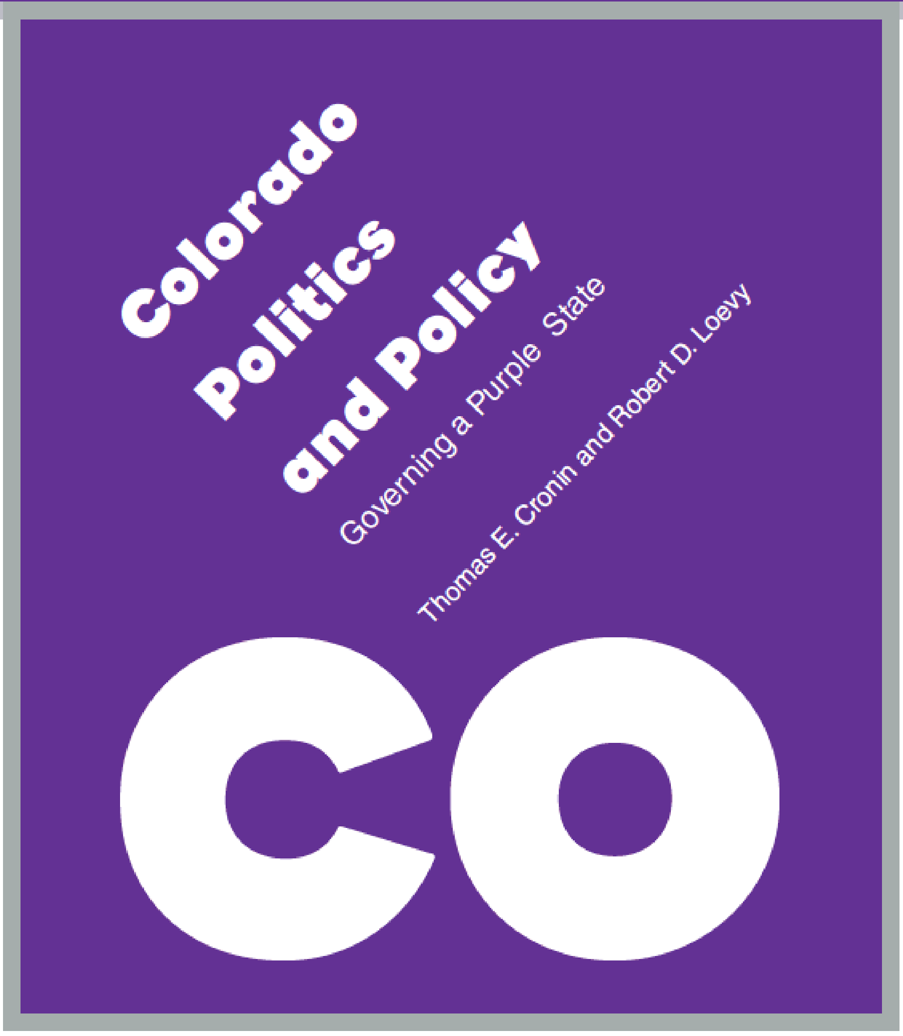
Elephant Revival in concert: Pair of tickets
Jamie Berry
Michele E. Mukatis

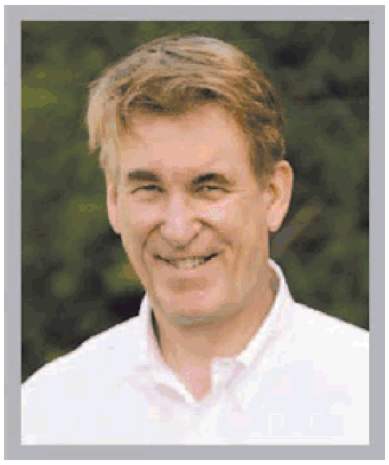
Be A Winner!

The Harlem Globetrotters' "You Write the Rules" World Tour takes kid participation to a whole new level. For the first time ever, fans will decide the rules for each game, which could affect the final outcome. We've got Family 4-Packs to all the fun! Register to win at csindy.com.

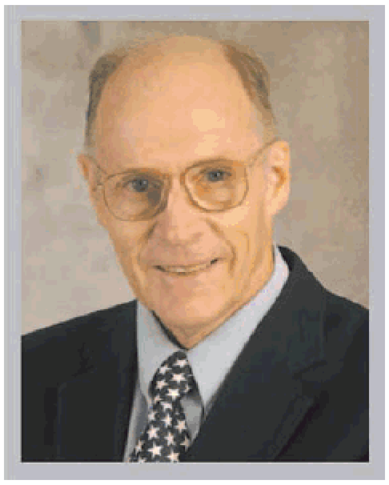
Advance Praise for Cronin and Loevy:

COLORADO POLITICS AND POLICY: GOVERNING A PURPLE STATE





Thomas E. Cronin is the McHugh Professor of American Government and Leadership at Colorado College. He is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including his latest, *Leadership Matters.*



Robert D. Loevy is Professor of Political Science Emeritus at Colorado College. He is the author or editor of a dozen books, including, *Confessions of a Reapportionment Commissioner.*

"An excellent comprehensive volume on Colorado's government and politics by two of Colorado's premier scholars."
— **John Straayer,** *Political Scientist, Colorado State University*

"Terrific book! It captures the state, its politics, and its political culture extremely well. The issues and challenges laid out… are right on."
— **Jim Carpenter,** *Partner, Stratton-Carpenter and Associates, former Chief of Staff for Governor Bill Ritter*

"Tom Cronin and Bob Loevy have captured the complexities of Colorado policy-making in this wonderful book. It clearly explains the challenges our state faces… It's a fascinating read."
— **Gail Klapper,** *Chair, Colorado Forum*

"Cronin and Loevy have given us a uniquely valuable handbook for anyone who is concerned with sustaining and strengthening the 'consent of the governed' in Colorado. The authors' perspective and prescriptions are stimulating, whether or not one agrees."
— **John Andrews,** *former President, Colorado State Senate, former Republican candidate for Governor of Colorado*

"A valuable guide for reporters, legislators, activists and others who want to understand Colorado's often unique system of governance…"
— **Fred Brown,** *veteran political columnist, The Denver Post*

COLORADO POLITICS AND POLICY: GOVERNING A PURPLE STATE
Order toll-free: 800.848.6224 • fax: 800.272.6817 • customerservice@longleafservices.org
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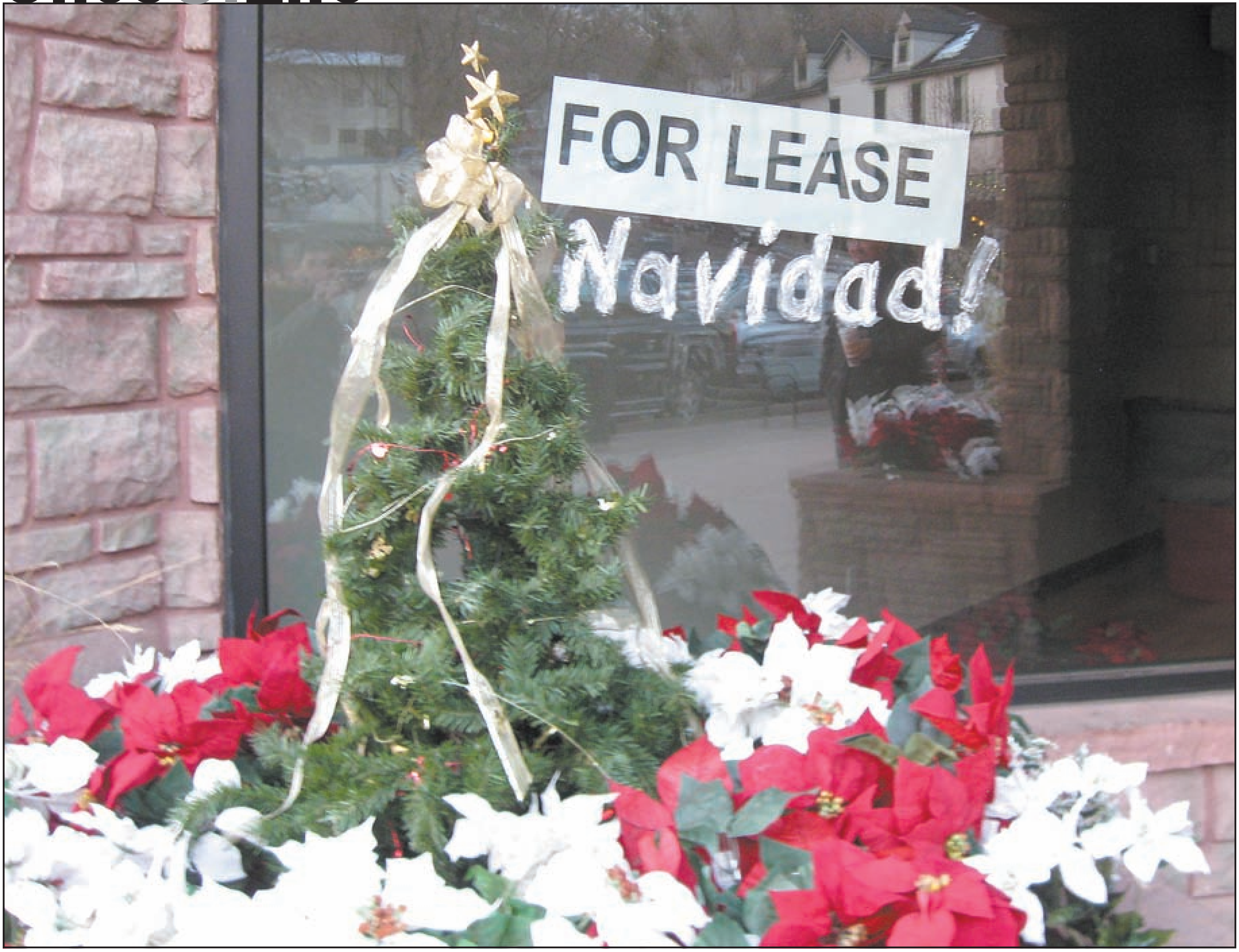
SliceOfLife



Edie Adelstein

Spotted in a vacant storefront in downtown Manitou Springs, an enterprising and punny graffiti greeting for the season. Brevity is the soul of wit, no?

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VOTED BEST IN PUEBLO!

Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'If this is what the world is becoming, then how about we just pack it in and fucking give up, because this is no way to live.'

— The Onion, in its response to the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School (tinyurl.com/Indy-Onion).

Guns, again

Kindergarten children. How can we as a nation sink lower than that?

We must have national and state conversations that lead to reasonable restrictions on gun ownership and usage that will make us somewhat safer. One TV anchor said "it's hard to imagine such violence coming to such a peaceful small town." No, unfortunately it's *not* hard to imagine this any longer.

Recognize the Second Amendment and the right of sane, law-abiding citizens to own guns for self-defense or hunting. But ban high-capacity ammo clips and restore the ban on military-style assault weapons. Close the "gun show loophole" and Internet sales with no background checks. Find and support courageous politicians in both parties willing to stand up to the NRA the way others have stepped away from Grover Norquist and his "No New Taxes" pledge.

Kindergarten children. It's up to us.

— Steve Meyer
Colorado Springs

Melt them down

It is time for all of the police departments in every town to open up their doors and ask for people to voluntarily turn in their handguns and automatic weapons. No questions asked! Of course, any rifle or shotgun not being used for hunting will also be accepted.

These weapons may then be melted down, and memorials erected to the "Innocent Victims of Gun Violence" in every city park. Enough is enough.

— Jane Madden
Colorado Springs

After the fire, hope

I've just finished reading your article on the Waldo Canyon Fire ("Misfire," cover story, Dec. 12) and, to say the least, I'm impressed with the work you did and the manner in which you presented it in your paper. You have provided insights into a fire that has not had the review attention it deserves.

As a retired Forest Service employee who has spent more time than I'd like to remember fighting large fires — I was the Agency Administrator for a large, deadly fire with Rich Harvey, in fact — I find the information you present to be especially troubling. I, too, have had serious difficulty dealing with local governments in critical times, and see what happened in Colorado Springs to be another tragic case where local personnel failed to accept that federal forces have far more experience dealing with situations of this magnitude and should be trusted to perform their jobs.

It also points out the imperative to learn how to work within a coordinated emergency response system — the Incident Command System, or ICS. I cannot stress how important the use of ICS is to all parties involved. I'm thinking that if the higher-ups in the Colorado Springs Fire Department were skilled in the use of ICS, things would have been different.

Anyway, thanks for doing a great job. I hope good things come out of this tragic fire.

— Don Hall
Yreka, Calif.

The wrong priorities

Thank you for your reporting on the Waldo Canyon Fire. We live on Vantage Vista Drive in Mountain Shadows and we were evacuated on June 23. Though traumatic for us (we lost a full half of our neighborhood, and our place was damaged), we were so impressed by how the evacuation process was handled on that day, from the reverse 911 calls to the policemen leading the evacuation.

On the other hand, we were horrified to hear about how the evacuation north of Chuckwagon Road all went down. Our friends in that evacuation had the very same experiences as you describe in the story.

Personally, I was always troubled by this: Between June 23 and June 26, there was very little discussion regarding Mountain Shadows. When we watched the TV broadcasts, it was always Cedar Heights, Cedar Heights, Cedar Heights ... I remember yelling at the TV, "What about Mountain Shadows!" The information you presented seems to validate our perception that Mountain Shadows was not a priority.

I was also always troubled about the evacuation line drawn at Chuckwagon. It may have been a good administrative split, but if you drive through the area you can plainly see that any significant fire event south of that line would affect the north very quickly.

On the 26th, I was following the action on an iPhone Internet-based radio scanner. My heart was in my throat when I heard the call to make a stand at Wilson and Flying W. I will never forget that moment and the effect it had on me. I can't imagine the hell those first responders went through, and it breaks my heart to know they were working this fire without the absolute best support behind them. They pulled off a miracle regardless.

— Ernie Storti
Colorado Springs

Our true leaders

As (still) a resident of the lower part of Wilson Road, last week's article on the Waldo Canyon Fire sent shivers up my spine. We heard rumors that members of an out-of-state wildfire crew were instrumental in saving our house and the ones around it, and your article seems to confirm that rumor.

On that unforgettable Tuesday evening, we had friends and family contacting us from around the country, asking about our house. My answer was always the same: "I can't possibly imagine how any house will be left standing, based on what I'm seeing."

We were amazed when we saw the first aerial photographs, both for what was lost and what was saved. Your "Men in the 'box'" story documented well how lower Wilson was saved and the heroics of those who saved it. Yes, we have neighbors who lost everything, but not as many as expected.

There is an undercurrent in the primary article that seems depressingly familiar. In times of crises, our political leaders are the first to stand up and say that everything is under control when it isn't. They tell us that all the plans are in place and working when they clearly are not. And the initiative and efforts of dedicated individuals save the day once again.

Afterward, the politicians congratulate the leaders, and the recognition of individual efforts is perfunctory at best. I want to thank the *Independent* for shining what light you could on the political and leadership shortfalls, but most of all, I want to thank you for taking the extra effort to tell us about the true leaders — those who took it upon themselves to save the neighborhoods using the tools and knowledge that they possessed, regardless of what was happening above them in the chain of command.

— Niel Powers
Colorado Springs

No second-guessing

I have read your "Misfire" story. Pretty complete. But it bothers me that Dr. Mary Harrow was center stage in the beginning, along with all the second-guessing.

You found a bitter victim in Harrow, who was willing to savage Mayor Bach. Too bad. I am sorry for Harrow's loss and all the other victims too, but the whole mess was one of those things that just happens, thankfully rarely.

Did the fighting go well? Depends on your perspective. My house did not burn, but it was in the fire's sights in the beginning. I live on the very eastern edge of Garden of the Gods. If the fire had raced through Cedar Heights like it did with Mountain Shadows, our home could have been lost. We

LongStoryShort

As we were preparing to send this paper to the printer, we heard the news about the murder-suicide that left at least four people dead in Longmont on Tuesday morning.

And just like that, any doubts we had related to running a tongue-in-cheek, fairly goofy, cover story on end-of-the-world holiday shopping were magnified.

They'd been present, of course, since a shooter killed more than two dozen people, including 20 kindergartners, in Connecticut last Friday. Over the weekend, as we watched and read the same coverage that everyone else did, we wondered whether we should change tack in this week's long-planned issue.

Do we acknowledge the solemnity of the time, or provide a respite from it?

In his column on p. 63, Rich Tosches chose the former. Once that was in place, we made an educated guess that by Wednesday, the paper as a whole should lean toward the latter.

As I write now, today's headlines merge with images from the first Connecticut funerals, and I can't help but wonder if our call was the right one.

I guess all this is just to say that we at the *Indy* are fully aware that for many people, this holiday season is going to be brutally challenging. We will certainly be among those who remind ourselves to count our blessings — or, better yet, hug and kiss them on Christmas morning — as we mourn for those who have lost loved ones. For them, we recognize that this holiday season really has brought the end of the world, at least as they've known it.

— Kirk Woundy

took all the precautions we could, given the amount of time we had. We had signed up for the 911 reverse messages, and they worked. Not perfectly, but they did work.

We packed up and left. We worried, of course. But, I never gave a second thought to second-guessing those trying to control a once-in-a several-hundred-year event. The nearest the fire got to us was perhaps a mile. Close enough.

We often hear the expression that war is hell, and is chaotic. Do events always go as planned in a well-planned wartime event? No. I liken the fire to war. Could the commanders anticipate every event that was going to happen: the wind, weather, mistakes, failed communications, etc.? No, of course not.

Second-guessing is not constructive and it drives me nuts. We do the best we can with what we have. We all make mistakes, I sure have. But mostly those in charge did a good job. My opinion.

— Steve Sinn
Manitou Springs

The fires of 2013

Pam Zubeck's article, "Misfire," is astounding, disturbing and reflects the incompetence that permeates our society in these troubled times. I felt horror and anxiety reading it.

Can we ever feel safe again as our drought continues with no end in sight?

The only heroes in this are our firefighters who lived under unbearable conditions for a time.

Maybe there is another side to this story but it evades me.

Dreading Summer 2013, living in fear is what is left for many of us.

— Deda S. Miller
Colorado Springs

Shaky on fracking

I have Stage 4 COPD. My condition is a result of exposure to toxic chemical compounds where I worked. I do not want or need further exposures or exacerbations. My background at the time of exposure was in fossil fuels, renewable energy and conservation.

Exposure to silica dust has recently been added to the list of possible dangers. From Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council: Silica gets into the air at frack sites and creates huge plumes of dust. This dust, blowing in the air up to a mile away, can cause debilitating and deadly diseases. Though workers may wear protective breathing gear, those of us who live in the area will not be provided respirators.

There have already been documented cases of carcinogens and toxic metals in the air and methane contamination of drinking water, with faucet water becoming combustible. Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency linked fracking to contaminated drinking water in Pavillion, Wyo. Surface water can be contaminated and cause fish kills.

The number of small earthquakes has also increased significantly. They are related to the injection of fracking wastewater into disposal wells. Even small earthquakes can cause infrastructure (e.g., road and bridge) damage.

Additionally, we must consider the possibility of contamination resulting from accidents during the transportation, storage and disposal of chemical injection fluids and waste materials.

It is absolutely essential for the health, safety and well-being of Colorado Springs' citizens that they be informed of the potential environmental and health impacts before fracking is allowed within our community.

— Judith A. Beasley
Colorado Springs

When the *Sun* fell

Your view that, "We [the *Gazette-Telegraph* news staff] won that war" between the *Colorado Springs Sun* and the *Gazette-Telegraph*, is not entirely accurate ("Can Anschutz take our daily back to the future?" Between the Lines, Dec. 5).

The decision to sell the *Sun* to Freedom Communications was simply a business deal. The Oklahoma Publishing Company (OPUBCO) purchased the *Sun* from the Armstrong family for about $1.2 million in the late 1970s. The Armstrongs (Sen. William Armstrong and his father) had purchased the paper about 18 months earlier for about $600,000.

By all accounts, the Armstrongs made a good business deal.

OPUBCO invested more money in its purchase, buying the first piece of Colorado Springs Urban Renewal Effort (CURE) property (a block of land bounded by Cascade and Colorado avenues, Cucharras and Sahwatch streets) for about $3.25 a square foot. For reference, the last parcel where the Plaza of the Rockies was built went for about $15.25 a square foot.

When Freedom purchased OPUBCO's newspaper, it came after years of OPUBCO offers to purchase the *Gazette*. In 1985, Freedom offered to buy the *Sun* for $30 million or more. On the last day of February 1986, the *Sun* printed its last edition and Freedom purchased a circulation list it didn't need and a press it sent to one of its smaller newspapers. It did not get the property.

I am not certain that Freedom, which for years railed against the government but ran for protection to the government's bankruptcy court when its creditors wanted their money, made such a good business deal when it bought the *Sun* newspaper. And I am certain that the *Gazette*, its news staff, and the community did not "win" anything. It was a business transaction. It wasn't personal; it was just business.

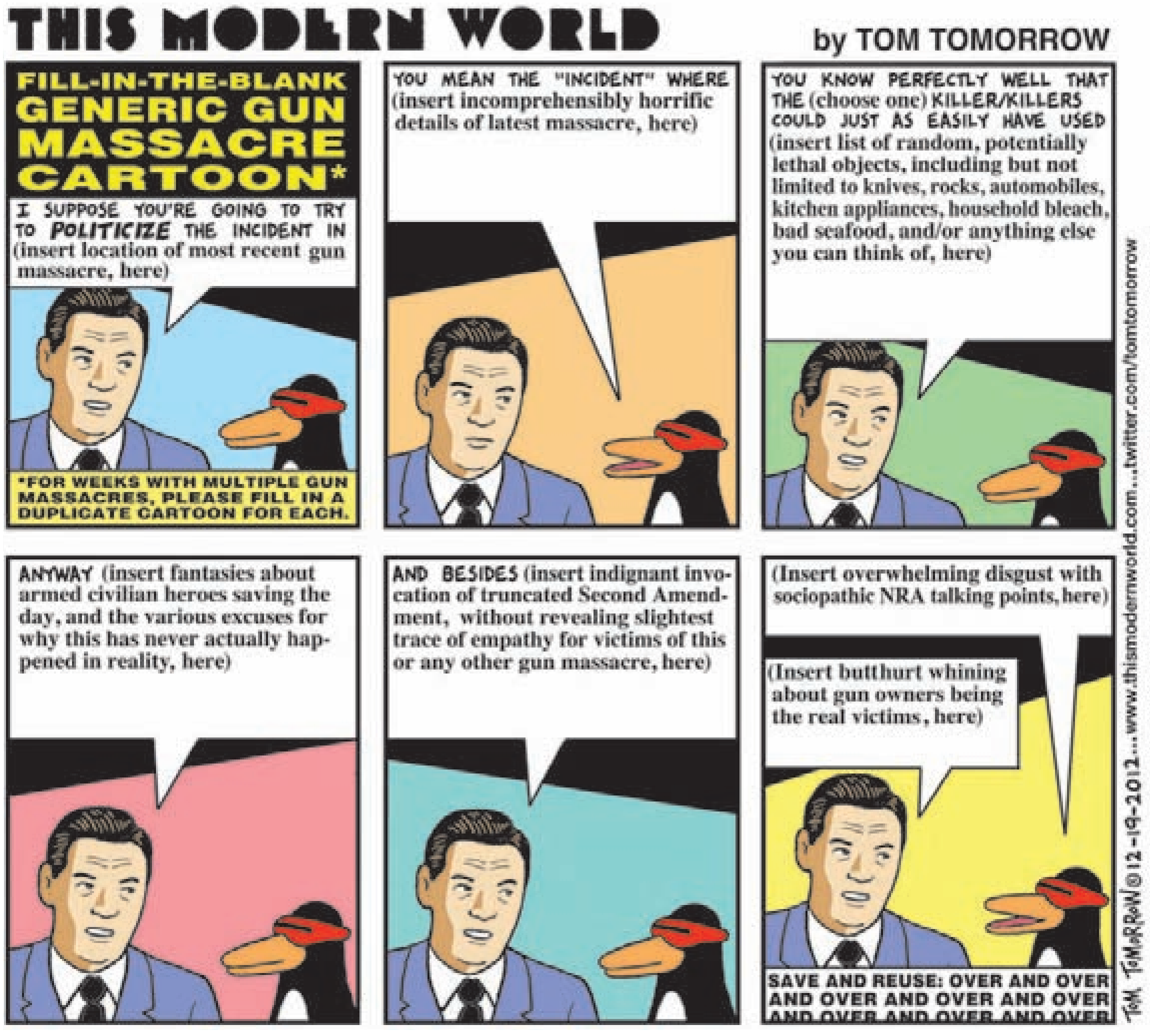
— Stephen Bobbitt
Sun ***city editor 1980-86;*** **Gazette-Telegraph** ***reporter 1973-78***
Colorado Springs

Smoke signals

The big GPS elephant in the room is marijuana. With two states successfully legalizing it, other states will surely watch with an intent to follow. Marijuana legalization will tell us exactly where the people and the government are located with respect to each other. It's us, getting right up in their federal face.

No matter where you stand on the issue, this smoke will show us which way the winds of freedom are blowing.

— Steve Suhre
Colorado Springs


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK GENERIC GUN MASSACRE CARTOON*
I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO TRY TO POLITICIZE THE INCIDENT IN (insert location of most recent gun massacre, here)
*FOR WEEKS WITH MULTIPLE GUN MASSACRES, PLEASE FILL IN A DUPLICATE CARTOON FOR EACH.
YOU MEAN THE "INCIDENT" WHERE (insert incomprehensibly horrific details of latest massacre, here)
YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT THE (choose one) KILLER/KILLERS COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE USED (insert list of random, potentially lethal objects, including but not limited to knives, rocks, automobiles, kitchen appliances, household bleach, bad seafood, and/or anything else you can think of, here)
ANYWAY (insert fantasies about armed civilian heroes saving the day, and the various excuses for why this has never actually happened in reality, here)
AND BESIDES (insert indignant invocation of truncated Second Amendment, without revealing slightest trace of empathy for victims of this or any other gun massacre, here)
(Insert overwhelming disgust with sociopathic NRA talking points, here)
(Insert butthurt whining about gun owners being the real victims, here)
SAVE AND REUSE: OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER AND OVER
TOM TOMORROW©12-19-2012...www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

GetInvolved

At your service

Attend this conversation with past and present Colorado Springs City Councilors: John Hazlehurst, Jan Martin, Mary Ellen McNally and Richard Skorman, as well as City Clerk Sarah Johnson.
So You Want to Serve on City Council?
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 11:45 a.m.
Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., free
Contact: 520-9899, kristy@citizensproject.org

Roadies

Volunteer for this citizen committee, which addresses the PPRTA on budgets, contracts, project implementation and more. Applicants should submit a letter of intent and résumé via email or post to PPACG, 15 S. Seventh St., Attn: Rick Sonnenburg.
Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Citizen Advisory Committee call
Deadline: Jan. 7
Contact: 471-7080 ext. 138, rsonnenburg@ppacg.org

Beep, beep

Sign up as a driver for Marian House, or as a helper, and transport various items around town for two to three hours per week. Marian House is also still in need of hams for Christmas meals.
Marian House volunteer call
Marian House Soup Kitchen,
14 W. Bijou St.
Contact: 475-7314, ccharitiescc.org

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 44.

illuminate
Find out more!

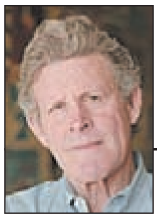
CHRISTMAS EVE AT WOODMEN VALLEY CHAPEL

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES
Sunday, December 23 • 9 & 11:15 am
Monday, December 24 • 1, 3, 5 & 7 pm

- Children's ministry (birth–K) is available at all services.
- Sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired will be provided at 3 pm at both campuses.
- Services are identical at both campuses.
- Visit **woodmenvalley.org/christmas** for more information.

We all know what it's like to walk through darkness. The darker it is, the more we appreciate the possibility of light. This Christmas, join us as we celebrate God's provision of the **Light** that **illuminates** our journey! This year, our Christmas Eve Services will take the place of our regular weekend services. Please note: there will be no service on Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday night, Dec. 23.

ONE CHURCH, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
WOODMENVALLEY.ORG



CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

The honchos and the hungry

Is Colorado Springs a provincial little burg, run by a fossilized elite of a few hundred old white guys with a sprinkling of women, blacks, Hispanics, Asians and "others," as the Census might put it? Or is it a vibrant, open, quintessentially Western city, welcoming to all?

Is power passed on from father to son (or mother to daughter, for that matter), or is it there to be seized by ambitious newcomers? Can you pull into town on a summer day driving a U-Haul with all your worldly goods, and be having lunch at the El Paso Club a few days later?

Yes to all those questions.

Thirty-one years ago, I had just finished unloading the U-Haul when a member of the city's power structure happened by. He jumped out of his Ferrari, shook my hand and said, "I'm glad to see you! How about lunch at the El Paso Club next week?" (I thus began my meteoric rise to … well, not much.)

It helped that I was a Springs native and had gone to school with the Ferrari's owner. At lunch, he had some advice.

"This is still a great little town," he said. "But there's not much going on here. Look around, see what you can find, but you might do better in Denver or L.A."

A few weeks later, I went to dinner with a few friends at The Broadmoor. **Jim Ringe** introduced me to an amiable guy about my age.

"Bill," Jim said, "meet John Hazlehurst. He's just moved back to town, and he's trying to figure out what to do."

"There's a lot of opportunity here," said Bill. "You'll have no trouble finding something that will interest you. We need people to be involved — so welcome back!"

> **'He's the most powerful man in southern Colorado.'**

"What's Bill's last name?" I asked Jim later. "I didn't quite get it."

"That's **Bill Hybl**," said Ringe. "He's the most powerful man in southern Colorado."

Today, he'd likely say the same thing. Hybl, chairman and CEO of the El Pomar Foundation, is a Pueblo boy made good, who by dint of his considerable smarts rose to prominence in the once-closed society of Colorado Springs. He symbolizes both the city's openness to newcomers and the longevity of those who hold power in its enduring institutions.

Fifty years ago, the business world here was very different. The three largest banks — First National, Exchange National and Colorado Springs National — were locally owned. Few business leaders worked for national entities. Our two largest companies, Colorado Interstate Gas and Holly Sugar, were headquartered here.

The power structure was relatively impenetrable. But things were changing. In the early '60s, **Morris Guberman** owned Kaufman's Department Store on the corner of East Colorado Avenue and Tejon Street. He hired a smart young guy from the East Coast, figuring this guy would shake things up.

Steve Schuck quickly started his own commercial real estate business, succeeded, and eventually hired another smart young guy to run the brokerage. His new hire, **Steve Bach**, found Colorado Springs just as congenial for doing business as did his mentor and … well, you know the rest.

In those days Colorado Springs was just becoming a city, the West was booming, and there were opportunities to be seized.

Cities are complex entities, where opportunities swirl, surface and disappear. Institutional barriers are there to be overcome, not to be artifacts of defeat. Our barriers: the El Paso Club, with its men-only policy. The GOP, with its death grip on local politics. Old white men like Hybl, Schuck and **David Jenkins** who cling to whatever power they have and don't go away.

Our enablers, a sampling of those creating and enabling change: El Pomar, the *Independent*, Colorado Springs Young Professionals, Modbo/SPQR, **Douglas** and **Mallori Rouse**, **Pete Schuermann**, Colorado College and the Sierra Club.

And the women: **Mary Lou Makepeace**, **Marcy Morrison**, **Pam Shockley-Zalabak**, **Robin Roberts**, **Susan Edmondson**, **Meredith Vaughan**, **Brandy Williams**, **Jan Martin**, **Amy Stephens** and others who came here, made their homes here, and have made/are making/will make the city a different place.

As the song says: "New York! If you can't make it there / You can make it in Colorado Springs."

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Mayan musings

We've lived through years of speculation regarding what may happen on Dec. 21, 2012. Now, we'll finally find out whether an ancient calendar can really predict the end of the world.

Debby Gentzel of ***Old Colorado City*** works in a ***call center***

Do you believe Dec. 21 could bring the end of the world? No, I don't believe that, and if the world does come to an end, it won't be because of what the Mayans thought.

Why do you think so many people are talking about it? Well, it's interesting, but I think people think it's more of a joke.

Remember the Y2K scare? Yes, and I didn't believe that one, either. But I worked with someone who really believed it and stocked up on everything.

If the world did end, what would you regret not having a chance to do? To travel more, both around the world and around the country.

What's the one thing you wish would come to an end? The financial situation that the government has put us in. It would be nice to be able to enjoy life again.

Joel Baeza of the ***south side*** is a ***small-business owner***

Do you think the world will end on December 21? No, the world is 4½ billion years old, so the odds are against it.

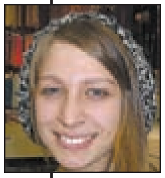
If the world ever did come to an end, what would be the most likely cause? Probably asteroid impact. Nuclear war would be too slow.

Is there something you never got to do? No, I've done everything. Well, no, actually, I'd like to meet a normal woman.

Do you remember the Y2K scare? Yes. I didn't believe that at the time, either, and as it turned out, nothing happened.

What's one thing that you wish really would end on Dec. 21? Anything having to do with higher taxes.

Jenna Smith of the ***west side*** is an ***art and movement facilitator***



What are your thoughts about the world ending on Dec. 21? I don't think the world is ending, but I think we are and will continue to experience a paradigm shift. Maybe the world as we know it will end.

Why do you think there's so much interest in Dec. 21? The current system isn't fulfilling, so we're looking for something that will bring us joy, freedom and true expression.

If the world does end, what kind of catastrophe is most likely to be responsible? It won't be a catastrophe. The changes will come because either the Earth or the people will no longer accept our current expression of society.

Would you have any regrets if the world really did come to an end? No, I'm so satisfied! I've done everything I've needed to do up until this point in my life.

What's the one thing you wish would come to an end? Fear. Fear of living in this world. Instead of people being afraid of scarcity, I would love for us all to embrace abundance.

— Kendall Kullman

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LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Ignoring the Big Lies of 2012

It's not easy to get in the face of power and defy the conventional wisdom — you can quickly get to feeling like B.B. King when he sings: "Nobody loves me but my mother, and she could be jivin' too."

Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein know that lonely feeling. This pair of think-tank political pundits has long been popular on Washington's insider talk-show circuit as cautious, middle-of-the-road voices of conventional thinking. But then they went rogue.

Recently, Mann and Ornstein charged that the elite media deliberately failed to cover the biggest 2012 election story of all — namely that the Republican Party and its nominees were flagrantly running a campaign of lies. The duo was surprisingly blunt, noting that the GOP was not just practicing politics as usual (with a fib here and a prevarication there), but an orchestrated strategy of dumping bald-faced fabrications wholesale on the voting public.

> **'What are you there for? Your job is to report the truth.'**

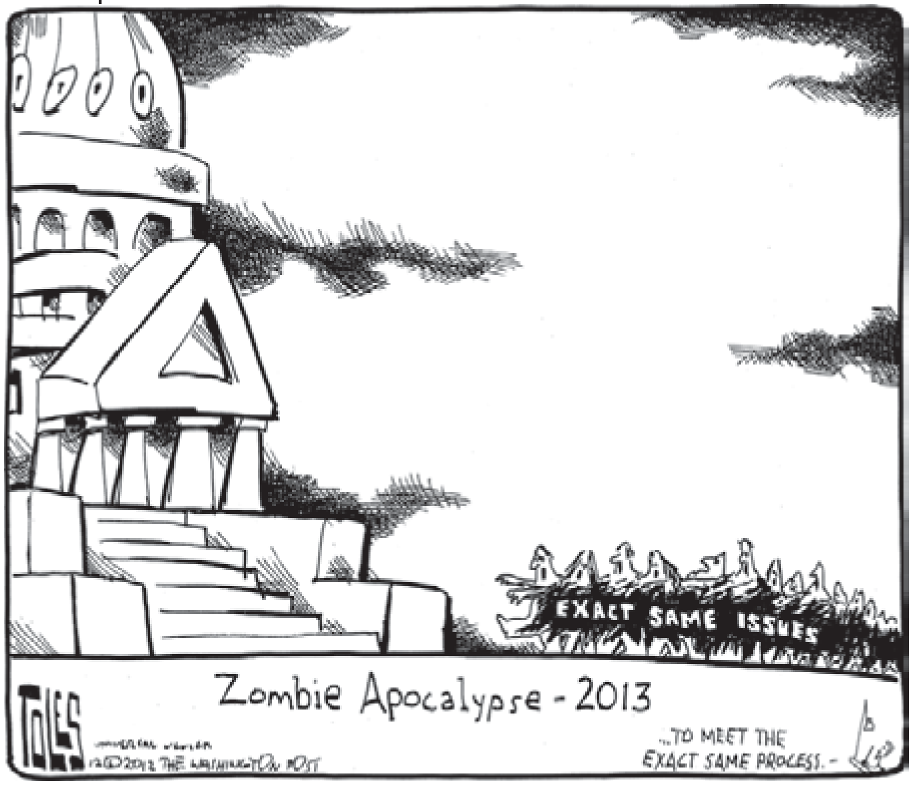
"It's the great unreported big story of American politics," said Ornstein.

While the Democrats, too, tossed out some falsehoods, there was no comparison between them and the Republicans' ideologically extreme perversion "of facts, evidence, and science."

Yet, reporters and their bosses, fearful of being accused of taking sides, failed to make a distinction — which, after all, is their job. "They're so timid," Mann said. And a timid press is a weak one. "You're failing in your fundamental responsibility," Ornstein said of them, asking the obvious question: "What are you there for? Your job is to report the truth."

As their reward for daring to tell the truth about the mainstream media's abject failure, Mann and Ornstein have been blackballed. They're no longer invited to talk on the insider shows, nor have those shows even mentioned the media's pusillanimous role in abetting the Big Lies of 2012.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow,** *on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

Time again for holiday gifts

The duty of passing out special presents for the holiday season usually falls to me, for reasons other than girth. But playing the Santa role always has come naturally.

I'll never forget my first time wearing the red suit and saying, "Ho ho ho" to an audience — in the Brookwood School Christmas play ... as a rotund third-grader. Then came a late-1970s church party where, making the grand entrance in full regalia, I was pulling it off until my older son (a precocious 4-year-old at the time) raced up, stared in disbelief and said, "Hi, Dad."

Anyway, no disguises here. Just a bag of gifts to distribute to ...

Mayor Steve Bach: Probably too much to ask for his goal of 6,000 more employed area residents, given the economic uncertainty. So we'll assume 3,000 would be acceptable. Also, an iPad programmed with everything he's said as mayor (such as wanting a baseball stadium downtown), so he can check it before claiming he never said something.

U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn: A front-row seat for President Obama's next State of the Union, and a year without putting either foot in his mouth.

> **I'll never forget my first time wearing the red suit.**

USA Pro Challenge organizers: Another chance to show off Colorado Springs in the world cycling arena, perhaps this time with a stage taking a scenic route around the Broadmoor.

El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa: The energy and backing to take his political career to another level after he steps aside in 2014.

Pam Shockley-Zalabak, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs chancellor: Continued momentum toward making UCCS the shining star of CU's entire system.

The *Gazette*: More staff, more space, more resources to produce better journalism. And more editorials supportive of the local community.

Colorado's Democrats now controlling the Legislature: The gumption to implement retail sales of marijuana and legalize civil unions, but the restraint to avoid abusing their majority power.

State Rep. Amy Stephens: Proper recognition in her final term for having pushed through Colorado's health-care exchange legislation despite opposition from many fellow Republicans, since the state will benefit from it now.

Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, Air Force Academy superintendent: Permission to stay one more year before retiring, if he wants it (there is precedent), to see through some projects and priorities that he has pushed during his tenure.

All those Texas drilling companies: Either huge success to justify your efforts here, or total failure so you can move on to possibilities elsewhere.

Colorado's Republicans: Candidates (maybe from this region) with fresh ideas, perspectives and charisma to run for statewide offices in 2014.

Lisa Lyden, well-rested former Channel 5 anchor: Another job in the local market (we miss you, Lisa) as soon as that non-compete clause expires.

Mark Earle, aviation director of Colorado Springs Airport: Success for Frontier Airlines' added service here, and perhaps a nonstop to New York.

Paula Miller, Pikes Peak Library District executive director: More chances to broaden PPLD's scope, already in the works with developing that huge Chapel Hills location and uniting with the Manitou Springs library.

Joe Raso, Regional Business Alliance CEO: A good-enough, and fast-enough, fiscal-cliff deal, helping maintain stability for the area's many defense contractors and giving the restructured organization a better chance at recultivating its image. And a role in Colorado Springs hopefully being able to market itself as America's Olympic City.

Local nonprofits: Success in year-end fundraising campaigns, despite the obvious presence of enduring donor fatigue from the Waldo Canyon Fire.

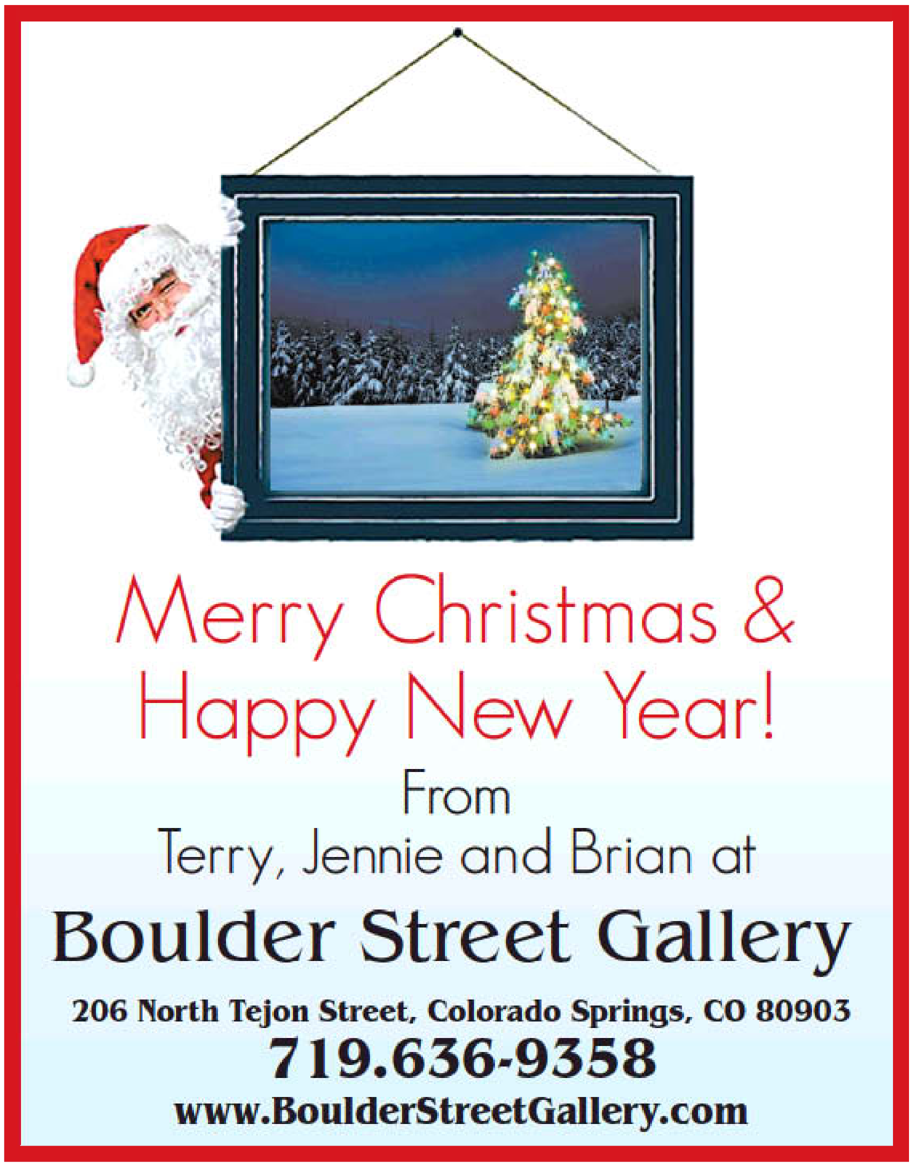
City Council: Clear heads when acting as the Utilities Board in dealing with the Martin Drake Power Plant issue, and a punching bag in the break room for members to take out their frustrations in private.

Linda Weise, Colorado Springs Conservatory executive director: More support from the downtown crowd, which doesn't always appreciate what it has.

Perry Sanders, owner, Mining Exchange Hotel: Even more success with the hotel and its Springs Orleans restaurant, to inspire more ambitious downtown projects.

Everyone in the region: At least one year, hopefully more, without a major fire, giving us time to become better prepared for the next one.

— routon@csindy.com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Fire proof

Two agencies endorse an outside investigation of how the Waldo Canyon Fire was fought

By Pam Zubeck

Just as the Waldo Canyon Fire pushed toward Colorado Springs city limits on Tuesday, June 26, two tanker planes that had been bombarding the western border of the city with slurry flew off to another fire, El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa says.

File photo

Some wonder if air support did enough.

Did their departure contribute to the Waldo fire's explosive growth into the city? Maybe, maybe not. But it's one of many operational factors that an unbiased examination would sort out.

"Pulling the [aircraft] off this fire raises the question, 'Does the federal government have enough resources throughout the West?'" Maketa says. "It's a bigger picture than where the city or county fell short."

Maketa plans to release his after-action report next month, which he says found "nothing earth-shattering." But the sheriff is also willing to invest up to $100,000 toward a third-party investigation, which the National Association of Fire Investigators estimates could cost up to $250,000.

"It's human nature to maybe not bring a lot of criticism on yourself," Maketa says. "I think a neutral set of eyes — uninvolved, with no investment here, looking at all aspects of it, reviewing all the information — would be invaluable, not only for us but for the western United States."

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper is on board, too, says director of communications Eric Brown via e-mail: "We'd support a third-party review."

Mayor Steve Bach, though, isn't biting. And City Council President Scott Hente is only mildly interested, saying, "Can little ol' Colorado Springs effect a change on the federal level?"

California critiques

The Waldo fire, which started June 23 in the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, burned more than 18,000 acres, killed two people and destroyed 345 homes inside the city, making it the most destructive fire in Colorado history.

The city's response to the fire is detailed in the *Independent*'s cover story, "Misfire," published Dec. 12. Based on a five-month investigation centering on firefighter duty reports and other documents and interviews, the report found the city was ill-prepared, evacuated people too late, and placed residents and firefighters at risk due to poor planning and organization. It also points out that the city's Initial After Action Report fails to substantially acknowledge many of these problems.

Bach has ordered outside reviews of other issues, including allegations of financial impropriety raised by former city finance director Terri Velasquez. (The report cost $65,000 and exonerated the city.) But when asked about a third-party review of the fire, Bach issued a statement saying, "The City continues working on the After Action Review of the Waldo Canyon Fire which will be completed by end of first quarter next year. I am satisfied with the process thus far."

Another review is underway at the federal level, but it's limited to forestry issues related to the fire. Asked about a firefighting review, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall's office declined to comment. Pike and San Isabel National Forests supervisor Jerri Marr didn't respond to requests for comment, and U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn "has no opinion," his spokesperson says.

Independent after-action reviews are routine in California, where wildland fires are commonplace and deadly.

"The California Emergency Management Agency — the state agency that coordinates response to all major statewide disasters — is required by law to conduct an After Action/Corrective Action report within 120 days of any disaster, including a major wildland firestorm," Carroll Wills, communications director with the California Professional Firefighters, says by e-mail. Wills notes the CalEMA is not the state's firefighting agency, but rather the coordinator, and thus "has the perspective of an independent agency."

As part of CalEMA's information-gathering, all state and local agencies involved in a response must submit after-action reports within 90 days of an incident. The state agency can then not only assess the response, but recommend changes.

In addition, the California Legislature or the governor appoints independent panels to investigate responses. One such blue-ribbon independent task force, composed of fire service professionals, reviewed the fires of 2007 and made more than a dozen recommendations, including funding for more firefighters, engines and aircraft; better tactical abilities for communications among firefighters; and quicker deployment of military resources.

More recently, the 2009 Station Fire, which began in the Angeles National Forest before killing two firefighters and burning more than 160,000 acres, triggered several reviews. The Forest Service's examination concluded the assignment of firefighting resources was "appropriate and consistent" with normal practices, but the federal Government Accountability Office saw it differently. For one thing, its December 2011 report pointed out that the Forest Service didn't use L.A. County's helicopters equipped to fight fires at night, of which they have nine.

'I think a neutral set of eyes … would be invaluable.'

While GAO investigators have bemoaned the Forest Service's dismissal of some of its recommendations, the Forest Service did work out an agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to allow federal deployment of those helicopters, says L.A. County Assistant Fire Chief Mike Metro.

"What that has led to is the Forest Service is becoming much more willing to use our aircraft at night on Forest Service land," he says. "That was a significant finding in the Station Fire."

Diverted helicopters

Of course, Colorado Springs and El Paso County don't have helicopters, but the feds' use of aerial support has been a contentious point.

Some residents complain that military firefighting aircraft weren't airborne on Waldo soon enough. They first flew on Monday, June 25, according to news reports.

Four other C-130s, nearly half the nine military planes available to the Forest Service, weren't mobilized for firefighting in the Rocky Mountain region until June 30, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture news release. C-130s equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) can drop 3,000 gallons of water or retardant in less than five seconds over a quarter-mile-long swath.

Maketa recounts that about 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, June 26, he watched two MAFFS planes make drops to fight the Waldo fire.

"They were really trying to saturate Queens Canyon with slurry," he says. But just minutes later, they flew away and didn't return. About 3 p.m., Maketa asked Type 1 Team Incident Commander Rich Harvey about it.

"He said, 'You're not going to believe this, but they've been diverted to High Park,'" Maketa recounts, referring to the fire near Fort Collins that burned about 87,000 acres, destroyed 259 homes and killed one person.

"I said, 'What do you mean?'" Maketa recounts. "'He said, 'They're a national resource. They'll dump a couple loads and will be back on our fire.'"

It's unclear if the planes returned, and gusty winds might have grounded them anyway. But the incident is an example of one thing that could be explored in a third-party review.

Here's another: Maketa thinks local agencies should be given permission to create a permanent firebreak between the Pike forest and the city and other populated areas. The break could both impede a fire from moving into the city and allow firefighters access to, and a safe escape route from, the vicinity.

"This would give responders the ability to draw a line to mitigate and manage a fire and protect our city," he says. "If a community came together — our congressional delegation, state lawmakers — and said, 'Yes, there's value in this,' it would happen."

— zubeck@csindy.com

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News

Angst follows Utilities

The Sierra Club lost a round last week when Colorado Springs City Council, sitting as the Colorado Springs Utilities Board, voted against settling a lawsuit the club has threatened over the coal-fired Martin Drake Power Plant.

File photo

Drake: at the core of controversy.

The vote was 5-3, with Val Snider, Merv Bennett and Tim Leigh on the losing end.

The Sierra Club vowed in September to bring an action alleging Clean Air Act violations, which pivots on claims that city-owned Utilities modified the Drake and Ray D. Nixon power plants without proper authority, and in doing so made them heavier polluters. The club says in a release it will continue to seek an "amiable" solution.

Generally, though, amiability is sparse when it comes to Utilities issues these days. For one thing, Leigh continues to fire away at Neumann Systems Group, the maker of emissions removal technology being installed at Drake, calling the technology unproven although it's been shown to work in third-party assessments. Now that's led to an ethics complaint.

Attorneys for company owner David Neumann wrote to City Attorney Chris Melcher on Nov. 27, citing Leigh's "false and libelous statements" about the technology. It also noted that Leigh is associated with Hoff & Leigh, a realty company that lists properties on its website located near Drake. That indicates Leigh has a financial interest in potentially closing Drake, which could happen more quickly if Neumann were out of the picture.

On Dec. 10, Neumann filed a complaint with Melcher and Council alleging Leigh violated his loyalty to Utilities by interacting with special interest groups, including the Sierra Club and Xcel Energy; made negative public comments and gave false information about Utilities, its staff, directors and vendors; and agreed to disrupt a contractual agreement between Utilities and his company.

In that complaint, Neumann didn't specifically call for an Independent Ethics Commission review. But Dec. 12, Neumann did file such a request, and the complaint has been forwarded to the commission, Melcher says. No meeting date has been set.

— Pam Zubeck

County cries unfair

For years, the Fountain Valley Senior Center has contracted with Colorado Springs and El Paso County to provide transportation — twice-a-week grocery store runs, rides to doctor's appointments and the like — to older folks in parts of the county.

Thanks to a wrinkle in the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority language, all that funding has gone through the city. And this year, the city wants to do things differently: It's asking to amend the 2009 intergovernmental agreement by extending the Fountain Valley contract only through May, buying just enough time to put the service out for competitive bid, says Craig Blewitt, manager of the Springs' Transit Services Division.

"One of the recommendations of Mayor Bach's Transit Solutions Team," says Blewitt, "which did its work in the tail end of 2011 and the first of 2012, was to include competition in the contracting of specialized transportation services. ... All of our other services are allocated through a competitive process."

The proposed amendment, scheduled for a vote among El Paso County commissioners on Thursday, would allocate just $59,583. Last year, the contract was for $143,000, says Commissioner Dennis Hisey, a Fountain Valley board member. And both he and fellow Commissioner Sallie Clark say that this kind of change, this late in the annual budgeting process, could create big problems for the little county-run nonprofit, which serves about 500 clients, 60 and older, in the unincorporated part of the county east of Interstate 25.

"One of the concerns," says Hisey, "is that we, meaning the providers, would immediately begin to cut back and try to figure out how to make five months' funding last a year, which means we would quit providing some services."

Clark points out that unincorporated county taxpayers who've come to rely on Fountain Valley contribute $2 million annually to PPRTA's funds.

"If the system's broke, let's fix it," says Hisey. "But I don't think the system's broke."

— Chet Hardin

Oasis for the indigent

If it can survive, a new nonprofit will provide beds for the sick and homeless, plus relief for hospitals

Until recently in Colorado Springs, a homeless person emerging from heart surgery would almost certainly end up back on the streets before she was healed. Not surprisingly, she'd likely end up back in the hospital within days or weeks. And she may need to return multiple times, with infections and complications, due to a lack of follow-up consultation.

J. Adrian Stanley

Greg Morris got Ascending to Health Respite Care going with money from his and his wife's savings.

"When a patient leaves here, and is homeless, you do lose contact with them," says Connie Cassani-Beard, a licensed clinical social worker at Memorial Health System. "You can't call and see how they're doing."

Local physician's assistant Greg Morris is aiming to keep tabs on — and do more for — people like this. This month, he received 501(c)(3) nonprofit status for his fledgling program, Ascending to Health Respite Care.

The agency provides a safe place for homeless patients to rest, plus case managers who ensure patients make it to follow-up doctor's appointments and pick up needed medication. It also helps homeless patients access housing and jobs.

"That is the ultimate goal of any respite care," Morris says, "is to make that transition, that leap, from accessing the ER and the hospital repeatedly to permanent, supportive housing."

Officially, the program is just getting started, but it's actually been functioning for more than a year, mostly in a test capacity. Over the course of 12 months, ending in October, Morris ran the respite program with the cooperation of Memorial, which referred homeless patients after treatment.

Morris measured the program's outcomes during the test period. While he can house a recovering patient for less than $100 a day, a Memorial inpatient costs at least $1,640 a day, and often much more. "We can only go so far in the hospital, and he's taking the next step," Cassani-Beard says.

But he's basically doing it by himself. Ascending to Health doesn't have *any* budget — so far, its services have been paid for largely out of Morris and his wife's savings account.

Hope locally

Venita Pine, assistant vice president of administrative services at Peak Vista Community Health Centers, is one of a few locals who can remember the Springs' last respite-care program.

Operating from the upper floor of Peak Vista's clinic, it provided full medical care to homeless patients for a few years. Then, around 2003, the federal government cut funding for programs that blur the line between housing and health care.

"There was disappointment that we had to shut the program down," Pine remembers.

Morris too, remembers. As the longtime program manager for Peak Vista's Homeless Health Center (which is not connected to Ascending to Health), he had a deep understanding of how important respite was to his patients. So he began working to replace the respite program in 2009, "just trying to plug the hole."

The test program likely saved Memorial roughly $482,000.

He pulled together a team of volunteers and some sympathetic nonprofits. R.J. Montgomery Salvation Army New Hope Center gave space for offices and 14 patient beds. The homeless program at the Aztec Motel on Platte Avenue made four beds available for patients. A South Nevada motel agreed to rent rooms for additional patients at a good price. Catholic Charities is helping with food, hygiene products, clothing and wheelchairs.

In all, nonprofits gave $98,000 in-kind. Harbor House, which treats chronically homeless people with addictions, was among them.

CAPSULE

Donations can be made to Ascending to Health Respite Care at ascendingtohealth-respitecare.org, or at its 709 S. Sierra Madre St. office.

"It's definitely needed in this community," Harbor program manager Katrina Vigil says. "... I don't think there will ever truly be enough beds for that."

A national story

Hospitals won't be filling the gap anytime soon. With recent reforms essentially putting an emphasis on "getting it right the first time," even some top hospitals that have readmitted Medicare patients have seen reimbursements lowered by as much as 1 percent. (Memorial was not penalized, but Penrose St. Francis Health Services took a .16 percent hit.) Facilities serving the underprivileged have often been hardest hit.

Respite programs offer a solution. In Los Angeles, a respite program saved hospitals $3 million annually, according to a 2010 report from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council. In Portland, Ore., the figure was $3.5 million; in Cincinnati, $6.2 million. Morris estimates that even his small test program may have saved Memorial roughly $482,000.

Because of savings like these — and a dearth of grant funding — some 48 percent of the nation's 63 medical respite programs now get funding from hospitals, according to the Respite Care Provider Network. ("Medical respite" programs generally go a step further than Morris' program, providing on-site medical care from nurses and doctors. Morris says adding such a medical-based program is a long-term goal.)

Later this week, Morris has a meeting with Memorial administrators, who he hopes will kick in some money. His savings account depleted, Morris won't be able to keep Ascending to Health going much longer without the help.

— stanley@csindy.com

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Pot ban in the county?

On Tuesday, El Paso County commissioners were scheduled to hold a first reading of Ordinance 13-01, which would ban the sale and cultivation of recreational marijuana in unincorporated areas.

If commissioners go ahead with a ban in response to the passage of Amendment 64, they wouldn't be the first; Douglas County commissioners looked poised to earn that distinction as they entered a meeting Tuesday, after the *Independent*'s deadline. But, as Brian Vicente with NORML of Colorado points out, El Paso commissioners *would* be the first to do so despite the will of their constituents. After all, voters here narrowly backed the amendment in November.

"In Colorado Springs, and El Paso County as well, Amendment 64 did get the majority of votes," Vicente says, "so you have to wonder who they work for."

Vicente adds that while commissioners have every right to ban retail stores, the arrival of those stores — if the federal government allows them at all — is hardly imminent: "They don't really have to do anything until late 2013," he says, "so anything that they do now is just preemptive and doesn't make a lot of sense."

A second and final reading of Ordinance 13-01 is scheduled for Jan. 8. — ***CH***

Solicitation ban advances

On Dec. 18 (also after the *Indy*'s deadline), a federal district court judge was expected to decide whether to issue a preliminary injunction to prevent Colorado Springs' new downtown solicitation ordinance from going into effect, pending the outcome of a legal challenge from the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado.

The decision was first expected Dec. 13, but was delayed because Judge Marcia Krieger needed more time to review evidence.

If she issues the injunction Tuesday, she will be giving the signal that, on first glance, she thinks the city law is unconstitutional. In the event, the city could choose to withdraw from the case and rework the law, or drop the law all together. Alternately, the city could choose to pursue the case in court, which would likely take months, or it could appeal the injunction, which would also likely be time-consuming.

If the injunction is not granted, the ACLU will likely consider its options.

Check csindy.com for updates on the case. — ***JAS***

Ambulance biz at issue

Colorado Springs firefighters apparently are serious about taking over ambulance transport from American Medical Response if the Greenwood Village-based company doesn't cough up $2 million to $2.4 million to keep the work.

In a memo to the Emergency Services Agency, an El Paso County-wide panel that oversees the emergency contract, Councilor Merv Bennett writes, "The City of Colorado Springs is giving serious consideration to the delivery of emergency services within our City Limits."

The ESA voted last summer to extend AMR's contract, which expires in December 2013, by two years. County commissioners also approved the extension. But Council "does not plan to approve any extension," Bennett writes.

That means the ESA will have to find a way to provide emergency transport for outlying areas without the city's volume of business.

Asked to comment, AMR's local manager Ted Sayer issued a statement: "I and all the local EMTs, paramedics and support staff are proud of our over thirty years of service to the Colorado Springs and El Paso County community. In today's challenging economy I hope the city appreciates the work our professional caregivers and staff does and considers the wellbeing of these local heroes."

No word yet on how Mayor Steve Bach might capitalize a city-wide ambulance operation, which could cost millions. — ***PZ***

Two more for Council

City Councilor Bernie Herpin has announced he will seek re-election in the newly created City Council District 5, where two others have already announced their candidacies: The Rev. Al Loma and nonprofit administrator Jill Gaebler.

Herpin, an appointed City Councilor from 2006 to 2007, was elected to represent District 4 in 2009.

Meanwhile, Dennis Moore, a retired Air Force vet and police volunteer, has announced a run in the newly drawn District 4. Moore, who says he is known as "Mr. Neighborhood Watch," is emphasizing economic development and public safety in his campaign.

Other candidates include at-large Councilor Tim Leigh for District 1, incumbent Angela Dougan for District 2, former County Commissioner Jim Bensberg for District 3, and pastor Dave Moore for District 6. — ***JAS***

Peak to open to bikes

Good news for cyclists: The Pikes Peak Highway will be open to them year-round starting Jan. 1. The announcement comes after a successful September pilot program that opened the road to bikes.

All riders will need to complete a use agreement and liability waiver, and pay admission. Children under 18 will need to be escorted by a parent or guardian. — ***JAS***

Compiled by Chet Hardin, J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck. For more news briefs, visit csindy.com.

Clerk's employee will assist campaign

In 2010, Alissa Vander Veen served as deputy campaign manager for Darryl Glenn in his successful run for El Paso County commissioner. This time around, as Glenn moves for re-election in District 1, Vander Veen's back as a volunteer, helping with the media.

But between campaigns, she's also taken on another role: chief deputy and communications manager with the El Paso County Clerk and Recorder's Office, which will run this election.

Might her off-time activities conflict with her day job?

"Our policy is that anybody can volunteer to do anything," she says. "That's political speech, so I am free to do and participate in whatever I'd like to."

According to El Paso County Clerk Wayne Williams, Vander Veen is well within her rights.

"It's state law that says, generally, that you can't forbid an employee from engaging in political activities," he says, as long as they do such work on their own time, and don't use municipal equipment.

He adds that it might be different if she handled "the testing of equipment, or other things like that." But Vander Veen "issues press releases about our office. In terms of the actual physically being in control of the elections, she doesn't have codes to the secured elections rooms."

Luis Toro, of Colorado Ethics Watch, says that he believes that if Williams wanted, he could curtail involvement by his employees in campaigns. "This is an issue of 'the smell test,' and from that standpoint, I think this is very unwise," he says, adding, "Everybody's going to think that the fix is in. She shouldn't do it, but I don't think that anybody other than her boss is in a position to do something about it."

— Chet Hardin

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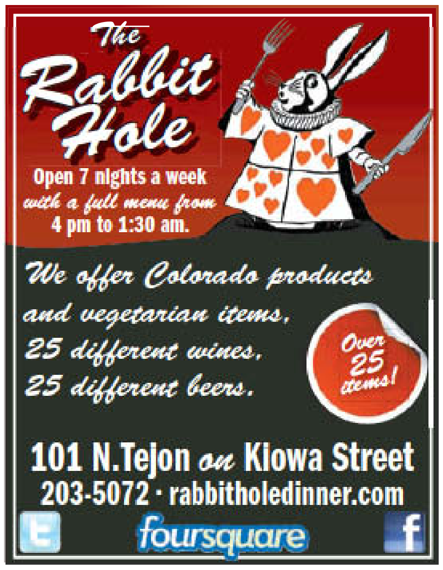

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Part 2: Whatever happened to...?

Continuing to catch up with the subjects of some notable stories from 2012

By *Indy* staff

Over our final three issues of 2012, we're following up on stories that you may remember from earlier in the year. If there's one for which you'd like an update, feel free to let us know via e-mail at newsroom@csindy.com.

Courtesy Camille Stellar Fontana

Dylan Fontana: Responding well to his medication.

Medical manna

Like most 6-year-olds, Dylan Fontana is growing.

Since April, he's gone from 40 to 44 pounds, and sprouted up several inches. At Buena Vista Elementary, where he's a first-grader, he's learning to read and write and has joined a running club. His baby cheeks are thinning out, he seems healthy and vibrant, and he's yet to contract a cold this season.

That last part, especially, seems unbelievable to his mom.

"It's just kind of breaking the laws of physics around here," says Camille Stellar Fontana with a laugh.

As explained in "Miracle off 31st Street" (April 11, News), Dylan has cystic fibrosis, an incurable, terminal, genetic disorder that causes the body to produce thick mucus that collects in the lungs and pancreas, hindering digestion and leading to serious lung infections. Dylan has to take medications and make frequent doctor visits. And while most kids watch morning cartoons unperturbed, Dylan is strapped into a special vest that shakes him violently, releasing mucus.

The routine used to be repeated at night. But a breakthrough drug has changed Dylan's life.

Kalydeco, released in January, treats CF on a cellular level, though it's only effective for the 4 percent of U.S. patients with a particular genetic mutation.

When Dylan went on the drug this spring, he showed immediate improvements, and after nearly a year, it's safe to say that Kalydeco has been a godsend. Dylan no longer has to use his vest at night, and his growth and good health are encouraging. Another way of telling that Kalydeco is working is measuring the salt in Dylan's sweat, because CF causes unusually high levels. A recent test showed that measure has plunged.

"There just aren't that many people in the CF community that are experiencing this right now, and we are," Camille says. "And it's just very touching and incredibly moving." — ***J. Adrian Stanley***

St. John's battle

The gist of our "Damn shame" cover story (Jan. 19): A number of congregants at the historic St. John's Baptist Church on South Prospect Street, once led by the revered, late Rev. Milton Proby, wanted to fire current pastor Willie J. Sutton Jr. They met, took a vote, and found the vast majority were in favor of doing so. According to the church's bylaws, they argue, this vote should have stood as a legal directive.

But instead of accepting the vote, Sutton sent these congregants letters explaining they were no longer welcome. Some recipients, including Sylvester Smith, have belonged to the church for so long that their names are actually carved into its cornerstone.

Attorney Edward Hopkins filed a lawsuit on behalf of the congregants; according to Hopkins, the judge dismissed it. He was preparing an appeal until it was discovered that the judge hadn't filed a final order, leaving the case open. So he's prepared a motion, including new evidence, to compel the judge to allow the case go to trial.

At the core is a fight over a Lincoln Navigator. In a sworn affidavit from church secretary Norma Jackson, allegations emerge that Sutton forged Jackson's signature on a purchase agreement for the $30,000 vehicle — essentially buying the Navigator, which he drives, in the church's name.

In the affidavit, Jackson further alleges that Sutton instructed her to say that she'd given him permission to use her name, or else he'd spread the rumor that she'd had sex with a member of the church.

Sutton did not respond to a request for comment.

Hopkins, who believes that this constitutes identity theft and defamation, has forwarded this information on to the Colorado Springs Police Department.

In a word, it's still a mess. — ***Chet Hardin***

Stars and bars

With a jury trial scheduled for Jan. 7, and evidence stacked against him, Ed Kiley believes he'll soon be in jail. The question, really, is for how long.

As reported in "Going out with a bang" (News, Aug. 15), Kiley's charged with 10 counts of possession of explosives/incendiary device; two counts of possession of a weapon by a previous offender; one count of possession of marijuana, more than 12 ounces; and one count of cultivation of marijuana plants, six plants or less. He could face 60-plus years behind bars.

Firm punishment for a man who says he was simply making fireworks to celebrate New Year's Eve. (Well, that and growing some pot.) A well-liked eccentric in his Hillside neighborhood, Kiley was surprised when police conducted a two-day search of his residence after he set off fireworks in December 2011.

Concerned he was manufacturing explosives to hurt others, police even called the feds, who declined to press charges. Kiley admits making the explosives was "stupid," but says the simple paper tubes he used as packaging, along with the types of explosives, indicate that he was just interested in noise and flashing lights.

Kiley says he's turned down a plea deal from the Fourth Judicial District Attorney's Office that would have given him four to six years in jail.

"I could be looking at a lot of time," he says, "but I really don't think the judge will give me that."

Today, Kiley is getting ready to sell off most of his belongings. He's arranged for his dog to stay with a friend on a Colorado ranch. And he spends a lot of time worrying.

"There's a lot of unknowing, and it's coming down to the wire," he says. "... It's what I call gushing anxiety." — ***J. Adrian Stanley***

Kimbra über alles

Kimbra was already well on her way to stardom when we interviewed her ("Up from Down Under," AudioFile) for our Oct. 3 issue.

Her guest vocal on the Gotye single "Somebody That I Used to Know" helped send both musicians' careers into overdrive, and the momentum's accelerated in 2012's final months. The track has become the year's biggest-selling single, while their famously body-painted video for the song racked up a third of a *billion* views on YouTube.

Meanwhile, Kimbra embarked on her first headlining tour of America in October, while her own Top 20 debut album, *Vows*, earned her Best Female Artist honors at the Australian Recording Industry Association's ARIA awards two weeks ago. (The Australian press subsequently declared Gotye and Kimbra the "King and Queen of Pop.")

At this point, it still remains to be seen how the two musicians will fare at the upcoming Grammys. Their single is a finalist for the coveted Record of the Year award, making them the first Australian artists to compete in that category since Olivia Newton John took home the 1975 Grammy for "I Honestly Love You." — ***Bill Forman***

New Life's new home

New Life Downtown: The idea ("No holding back," News, Jan. 26) was to rent the Carter Payne Events Center at 320 S. Weber St. every Sunday, for two morning services. Lead pastor Glenn Packiam expected that up to 250 people could comfortably attend each one.

Instead, once 200 or so people started showing up soon after the April opening, the one-time African Methodist Episcopal church was feeling a little tight. So, Packiam and company pulled out of the lease with the Carter Payne and found a new Sunday home: the auditorium of Palmer High School.

Now, five years after the parking-lot shootings that threatened to break New Life's community apart, its health is reflected each Sunday morning, when two services happen simultaneously: One attracting thousands to the main campus on Voyager Parkway, and another 500 people coming to Palmer at 301 N. Nevada Ave.

Packiam says that the real success of the downtown campus can be seen in the response to the campus' small groups, which are growing quickly, and the participation in missions into the city, such as a mentoring program at Queen Palmer Elementary and a program to host or feed families in transition.

"We obviously hoped that people would respond well," says Packiam, "and I thought that over time we would get there, but I didn't think that we would get there this quickly." — ***Chet Hardin*** way to grow

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Sanctuary for the suffering

At Ronald McDonald House, families of critically ill kids find a home away from home

By Rhonda Van Pelt

Your child ends up in a Colorado Springs hospital and will be there for a while. How can you stay at your child's bedside while still taking care of your own needs?

For 25 years, the local Ronald McDonald House has been the answer for frightened, stressed-out families.

Jane Gabriel knows how they feel. She and her husband, Steve, had a son named Jonathan who was diagnosed with leukemia in the summer of 1990.

Bradley Flora

More than 8,000 families have stayed here in the past 25 years.

"The ball started rolling downhill and we were stuck on top of it," Jane recalls.

At that time, Memorial Hospital didn't have a pediatric oncology department. The Gabriels took the 4-year-old to Children's Hospital in Denver, and a social worker told them about the nearby Ronald McDonald House. Jane stayed there while Steve continued his Air Force career.

"I walk in the door here [at the Springs' Ronald McDonald House] and, even though this is not the house we were at, I am right back there," she says. "I would walk through the door and think, 'OK, now I can relax. Now I can let go for a little bit.'"

Jane would play with her son Jason, then 18 months old, in the house's family room. When her parents arrived to care for Jason in the Gabriels' home, she could spend more time at the hospital.

"I'd go back to the house to sleep and cry," she says. "I remember the first time I walked into the room and saw the comfy chair, I cried. It wasn't the chair in the hospital room."

No one turned away

Jonathan lost his battle in July 1991, but his legacy endures. The Gabriels donate to the house and every year, on Jonathan's birthday and the anniversary of his death, they deliver cookies.

Jason, now 23 and in the Air Force, has no direct memories of his brother. But he has expressed his love throughout his life by participating in Leukemia & Lymphoma Society fundraising walks, and painting the local house with his Eagle Scout troop.

That house, on North Logan Avenue, is a brief walk from Memorial Hospital and accommodates 11 families. It was built for a tuberculosis sanatorium, then became a nurses' dormitory.

"We love that it's been a house of healing for well over 125 years," says Sam Rush-Walton, development coordinator. "This is not a destination location, it's not like you choose to travel here. Something has gone terribly, terribly wrong."

The house has sheltered more than 8,000 families since it opened on Valentine's Day 1987. A U.S. map on the wall is covered with pins showing families' hometowns, but many are from southern Colorado, northern New Mexico, and western Kansas.

'I remember the first time I walked into the room and saw the comfy chair, I cried.'

Many of the stories end happily.

"We celebrate with those families," Rush-Walton says. "For others, there's a new normal. Such as a car crash that injures a child. He won't be the golfer you hoped he would be, but he's taking steps on his own. There's a smaller percentage where, regardless of the best possible care, the little ones perish much too soon."

CAPSULE

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado
311 N. Logan Ave.
471-1814, rmhcs.org

The average stay is 13 days, and no one is turned away for lack of money. A room costs about $40 per night, but grants and donations defray that cost for those who can't afford it. McDonald's itself covers 12 percent of the local budget.

"It's the expectation of every Ronald McDonald House in the world that McDonald's helps with start-up and whatever the individual operators can do with fundraisers. They also provide that branding, which is huge for us," says executive director Beth Alessio. "But the expectation is that every house is their own nonprofit, and they get support from their local community."

Better for everyone

Under Alessio's leadership, the staff has opened Colorado's first Ronald McDonald Family Room, inside Memorial Hospital, plus others at St. Francis Medical Center and the Children's Hospital of Colorado outpatient clinic. There, families can eat, take showers and do laundry while being just steps away from their child.

"Studies show that kids get better, faster, when their families are with them," Rush-Walton says.

The local organization also has launched the world's first green Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, which delivers medical and dental care to at-risk kids in five area counties.

"This is the mission of nonprofits, to step up when times get tough," Alessio says. "We went from serving 300 families a year [25 years ago] to 5,000 families a year."

Donated food can be reheated or cooked in the spacious kitchen for families gathering in the dining room. The backyard is stocked with a grill, tables and playground equipment.

But the home's heart beats in the cozy bedrooms that are havens for exhausted families.

"You're kind of on autopilot when you're dealing with a critically ill child," Gabriel says. "If you are supported, if you have a place like this, with wonderful people around you, your inner reserves grow as well. I learned that we needed to take care of ourselves first, before we could take care of Jonathan."

— newsroom@csindy.com

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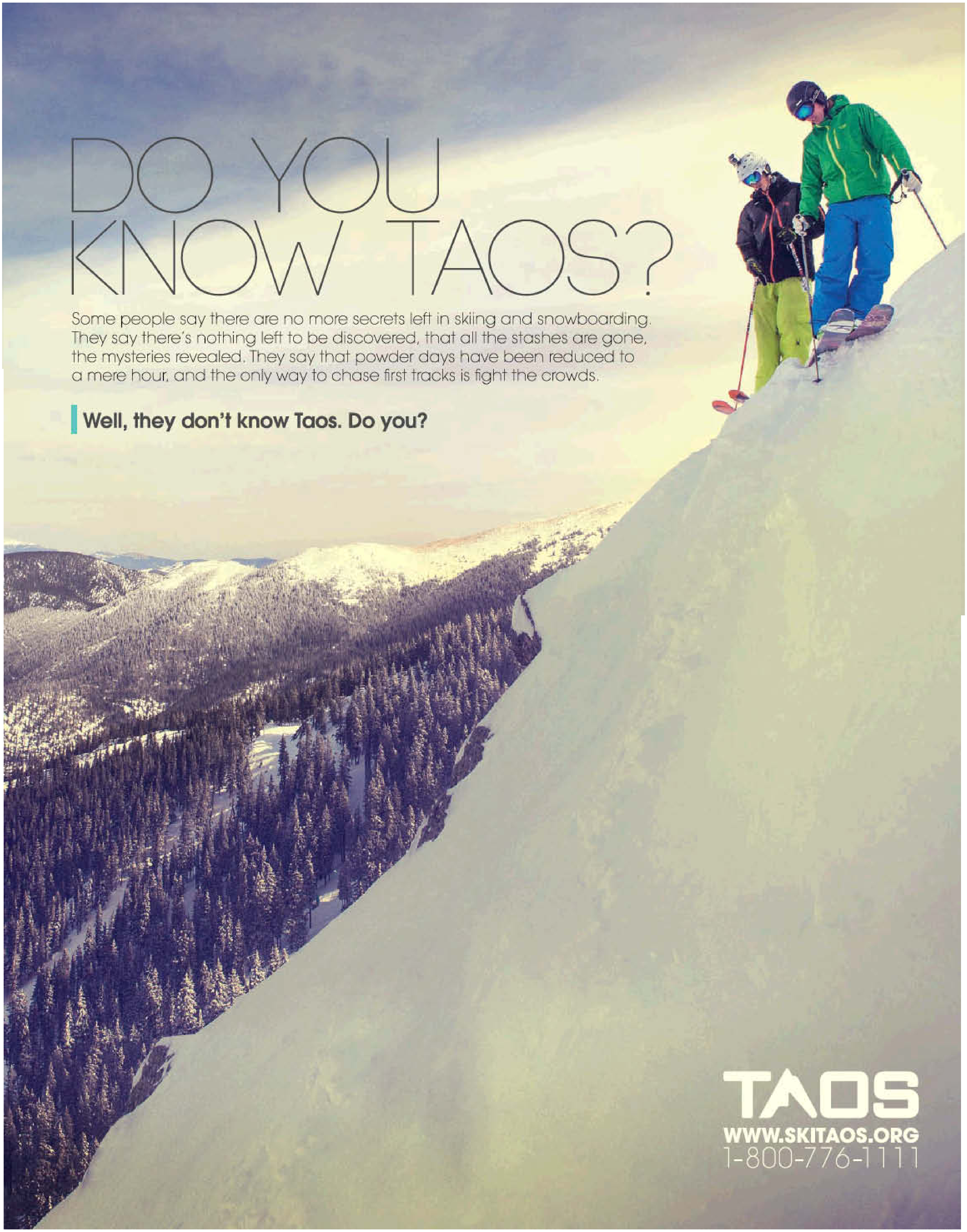

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Some people say there are no more secrets left in skiing and snowboarding. They say there's nothing left to be discovered, that all the stashes are gone, the mysteries revealed. They say that powder days have been reduced to a mere hour, and the only way to chase first tracks is fight the crowds.

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A VERY MAYAN XMAS

A gift guide designed to help family and friends endure the end times

By Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens and Matthew Schniper

Dec. 21, 2012: the date when the shit goes down. Or so the Mayans supposedly said.

And let's just suppose they were right. Suspend disbelief for a moment, just as if you were entering the multiplex for a Friday night escape, and prepare to skim the surface of rationality as we tackle a last-minute gift guide for, well, our last minutes.

Yes, we realize that in a post-apocalyptic world there likely won't be gifters or giftees or much of anything beyond ash, dirt and maybe a few sad survivor souls, à la Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*. So we offer the following more in the spirit of thematic commemoration, a Franklin Mint-style homage to the collective fears of global annihilation.

It's a tour of six of the most common assumptions about how our demise will come, with suggested gifts related to each catastrophe. Buy one of these items, and you've found a very 2012 way to say, "Merry Christmas." If we make it that far.

NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST

Who pressed the button first? North Korea? Some radical Mideast faction? Who cares? It doesn't matter because the majority of the planet has been vaporized, and your only recourse will be to survive with *Mad Max* gusto ... that is, after you emerge from that subterranean bunker you so wisely built.

Anyhoo, the first thing you deserve to settle those shell-shocked nerves is a beer. God's medicine. (Or at least Belgian monks', anyway.) And what better beer to reach for, or gift to a fellow survivor, than the 12.21.12 Mayan prophecy commemorative **Little Death Ride Saison Apocalyptique**. Good thing you stocked your bunker with a 750 ml bottle ($25.95) from **Trinity Brewing Company** (1466 Garden of the Gods Road, trinitybrew.com), after being one of the lucky ones to grab a pint from the sole keg tapped there at 5 p.m. on the 21st, during the zombie costume party.

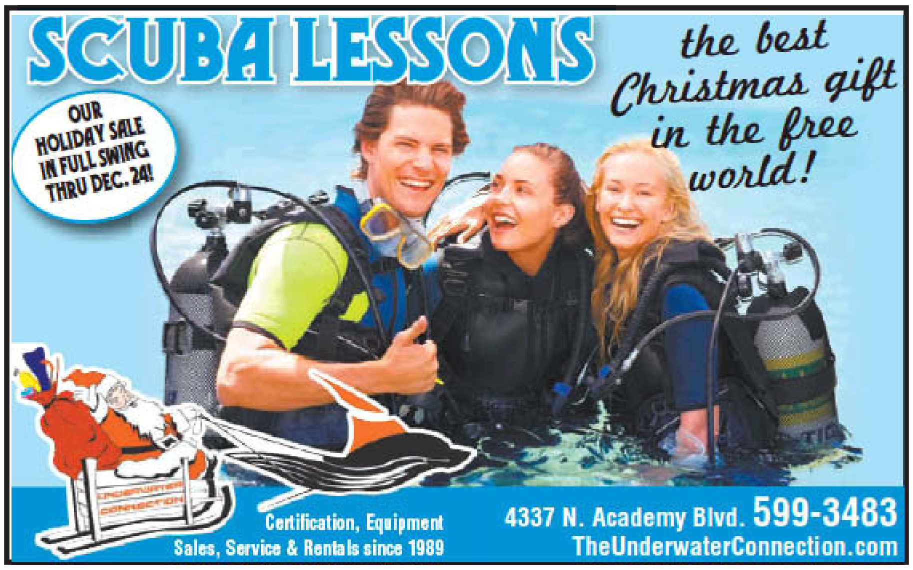
LittLE DEAtH RiDE
Saison Apocalyptique
Trinity Brewing
13 Bärtuns
13 IBUS
13 Percent

Made in collaboration with Denver's **Black Fox Brewing**, the massive 13 percent ABV concoction, aged on clay, features ingredients from Mayan cuisine such as maize, pumpkin, cacao nibs, chilies and wild cinnamon. A toast: To the end of times!

And seeing as good beer deserves a gourmet food pairing, won't you be glad you purchased that $19.99 **Back to the Roots' grow-at-home mushroom kit** from **Whole Foods** (7635 N. Academy Blvd., backtotheroots.com)?

No, the irony of chomping on fine fungi after a mushroom cloud has delivered Mother Nature a deathblow isn't lost on you, or your giftees. Those 24 ounces of delicious oyster mushrooms grown out of recycled coffee grounds, only requiring some daily misting and a sunny windowsill (let's hope a sun-less nuclear winter hasn't yet set in), will make a fine treat.

And hey, why not reach for a homemade popsicle for dessert? Assuming again that the sun isn't entirely blotted out by ash, it's probably gonna be hot out there. **Zoku Quick Pop Makers** (ranging from one to three pops, $24.99 to $49.99) make popsicles in only seven minutes (presuming your wind-powered freezer is working). They, plus design and storage accessories ($11.99 to $19.99), can be found at **Sparrow Hawk Cookware** (120 N. Tejon St., sparrowhawkcookware.com). Suck on that, Armageddon! ***— MS***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ASTEROID

It was all a conspiracy. There *was* a giant hunk of ice and rock hurtling toward Earth, and it smashed into the ground with nary a warning or preventative *Armageddon*-like measure. Why? Some evil warlord is probably profiting off world misery, and cloaked the asteroid in invisibility to sneak it past our telescopes.

Now the skies are dark, and it's nothing but rocks as far as the eye can see. It's dusty, it's dim, there's nothing green anywhere, and you're wondering if a distant civilization will use your fossilized, decomposed body for fuel.

Time to celebrate a new kinship with the Tyrannosaurus, via **membership** at the **Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center** (201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park, rmdrc.com), home to numerous fossils, restored skeletons, exhibits and a working lab. Memberships run $32 to $40 for singles, $54 to $65 for duals, and $85 to $95 for families, and grant you free admission, guest passes, shop discounts and more.

On a less philosophical, more practical note, given the physical environment, you could go with a **rock climbing course** through **Wishlist** (enjoywishlist.com, $99 for one person). This allows a giftee to pick one of five Colorado adventures that vary from ziplines in Cañon City to whitewater rafting along the Arkansas River to the aforementioned climbing in Garden of the Gods and Red Rock Canyon Open Space. (Wishlist also offers a spa-getaway option for $119, if your answer to the mass horror is a massage or body wrap.)

And, really, what better time for someone to have a **break-your-own geode set** (**Mountain High Gallery and Gifts**, 11 Arcade, Manitou Springs, navajogiftshop.com, $4.99), to help identify what rocks to break open for crystals? Adorning yourself with your finds may seem extraneous, but you know what they say: "Look good, feel good." And we'll all be needing all the help we can get. **— *EA***

ALIEN INVASION

The big question: Are they here in peace or war? We've got your gift-giving covered for either situation.

First, consider **language classes** by **GlobeLink Foreign Language Center** (802 S. Tejon St., globelinkflc.com, prices vary). Granted, your recipient may not have enough time to master whichever of the 40-plus options she thinks most appropriate to this situation, but we figure some basics — "Hello." "How are you?" "Can I get you a drink?" — in anything but English will be a good place to start.

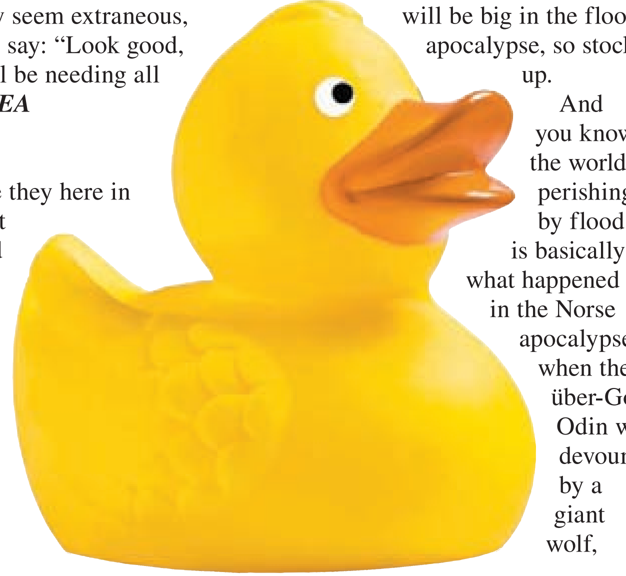
As for that drink ... whether that towering, slimy bug-eyed creature is friendly or fierce, he's sure to enjoy a bottle of **Leopold Bros. Absinthe Verte** from **Coaltrain Wine and Spirits** (330 W. Uintah St., coaltrainwine.com, $64.99, 750 ml; $35.99, 375 ml). The Denver-produced, otherworldly green liquid is a nice 66 percent ABV, which should tame even the nastiest mother-sucker.

Of course, as a co-worker has pointed out, you can never be too careful when probes may be involved. Give the gift of lock-down with a **Renegade III plug** from **Christal's** (2582 S. Academy Blvd., 3737 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., christals.com, $17.99). There are few times when one of these is an appropriate gift. But when it comes to alien invasion, the phthalate-free, "silky feel" black silicone just might be *the* option for le derrière. **— *KA***

FLOOD

The seas rose faster than we predicted, half the world is under water, and it's balmy as all hell. Water transportation's key. If you're a newbie, hitch a ride to **Sportsman's Warehouse** (555 N. Chelton Road, tinyurl.com/dyxso6r) for its **Kayaking 101 class**, a course on the basics of choosing a kayak, life vest and accessories, which you can then pick up at the store. You'll have to plan ahead for this one, as it takes place next June, but let's face it — you'll need to save up for the equipment, anyway.

While you're out, best accessorize the global bathtub with some toys for the kiddos, and what's more appropriate than an armload of **rubber ducks**? At **Quacker Gift Shop** (738 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, quackergiftshop.com), you can browse classic models and every variation under the sun. Think Elvis duck, pirate duck, bride and groom ducks, Santa duck, pope duck; some on keychains, some pocket-sized, some big enough to float your beverage. And you'll be hard-pressed to find any over $10. Due to their buoyancy, I'm thinking ducks will be big in the flood apocalypse, so stock up.



And you know, the world perishing by flood is basically what happened in the Norse apocalypse, when the über-God Odin was devoured by a giant wolf, other gods were slain, and the Earth sunk into the sea. (Please forgive this less-than-bare-bones overview.) So maybe it's time to start brushing up on your Norse "mythology," just in case.

Supplement your education with a pair of tickets to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic's ***Wagner & Beethoven*** performances, set for Jan. 26 and 27 (csphilharmonic.org, $19 to $59). Music director Josep Caballé-Domenech conducts, with special guest pianist Susan Grace. On the program are Wagner's overture and bacchanale from *Tannhäuser* and, of course, *Ride of the Valkyries*. ***— EA***

ENLIGHTENMENT
on a SPRING!
DASHBOARD
JESUS

RAPTURE

With all the "Warning: In case of Rapture, this car will be unmanned," bumper stickers around this town, the best gift-giving option here might be defensive driving classes. Those aside, you've got two choices if you think your gift recipient might not end up one of the chosen ones.

Option No. 1: Root for his soul. Give him the ***Left Behind*** series, a collection of 16 novels by Tim LaHaye and Colorado Springs' own Jerry Jenkins, available individually (and already well-loved) at $**2 Buck Books** (5172 N. Academy Blvd., 260-4453, $4/hardcover, $2/paperback), to help boost the possibility he'll learn what to do to be picked up on a second pass. Throwing in a **Dashboard Jesus** from **Barracuda Bazaar** (2603 W. Colorado Ave., barracudabazaar.com, $8), might also be a good idea.

While Revelations doesn't refer to flesh-eating reanimated corpses, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did advise folks this fall that "if you are generally well equipped to deal with a zombie apocalypse," you'll be prepared for most anything. We'd suggest even battling the Antichrist. So, Option No. 2: zombie boot camp via the 1,000-plus page ***The Walking Dead: Compendium One*** from **Muse Comics + Games** (1350 N. Academy Blvd., musecomicscolorado.com, $59.99). Robert Kirkman's *New York Times* bestselling comic book series about a group of post-apocalyptic world survivors, and the resulting AMC television series, hasn't been a hit for no reason. It's all practice, dear friends. It's all practice. ***— KA***

SOLAR FLARE

True story: In 1859, a "coronal mass ejection" with the power of millions of nuclear bombs (called the Carrington Event) was emitted by the sun. When the geomagnetic storm reached Earth, it caught telegraph paper on fire while knocking out that communication network.

Today, what do you think will happen to all those satellites we rely on for GPS, cell phones and air traffic control, plus other vulnerable chip-based systems used for such mega-important things as nuclear-reactor cooling?

When the grid goes this time, we're totally effed, amigos.

Help friends and family usher in an agrarian era at **Buckley's Homestead Supply** (1501 W. Colorado Ave., buckleyshomesteadsupply.com), your source for everything from jerky hangers and meat grinders (happy hunting!) to butter churns and the must-have **Dovo Solingen straight razor** ($139). Think top-of-the-line, German-made beard blaster, made better by the accompanying **leather sharpening strop** ($48), **Colonel Ichabod Conk sharpening stone** ($16.50), **badger hair shaving brush** ($68.99) and **Col. Conk shave soap** ($6.50).

Over their perpetually baby-soft cheeks, your giftees will want sunglasses to combat that naughty sun. Enter Monument-based **Maxx Sunglasses**, with every style of UV-defying, durable eyewear you could want. You'd normally order online, but in a computer-fried land, you'll likely have to resort to raiding the last supplies (all $19.95) at **Mountain Equipment Recyclers** (1024 S. Tejon St., merecyclers.com).

Afterward, it's time for another homage to the Mayans' prognostications: a disc of **Taza Chocolate**'s **Guajillo Chili Chocolate Mexicano**, an organic, direct-trade product made with cacao that's ground in Oaxacan stone mills. It's found for $4.59 at **Mountain Mama Natural Foods** (1625 W. Uintah St., Suite A, mountainmamanaturalfoods.com). True, this treat doesn't quite place us in the Mayan homeland of the Yucatan Peninsula (where the asteroid fell that supposedly wiped out those dinos), but you get the idea. The Mayans and Aztecs are believed to be the first people to consume chocolate, and you just might be the last. Chew slowly and savor, survivor. ***— MS***

— newsroom@csindy.com

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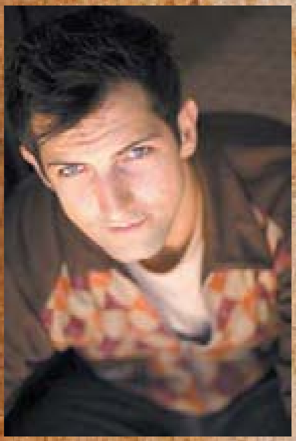
Seven Days to Live

19 Wednesday

music



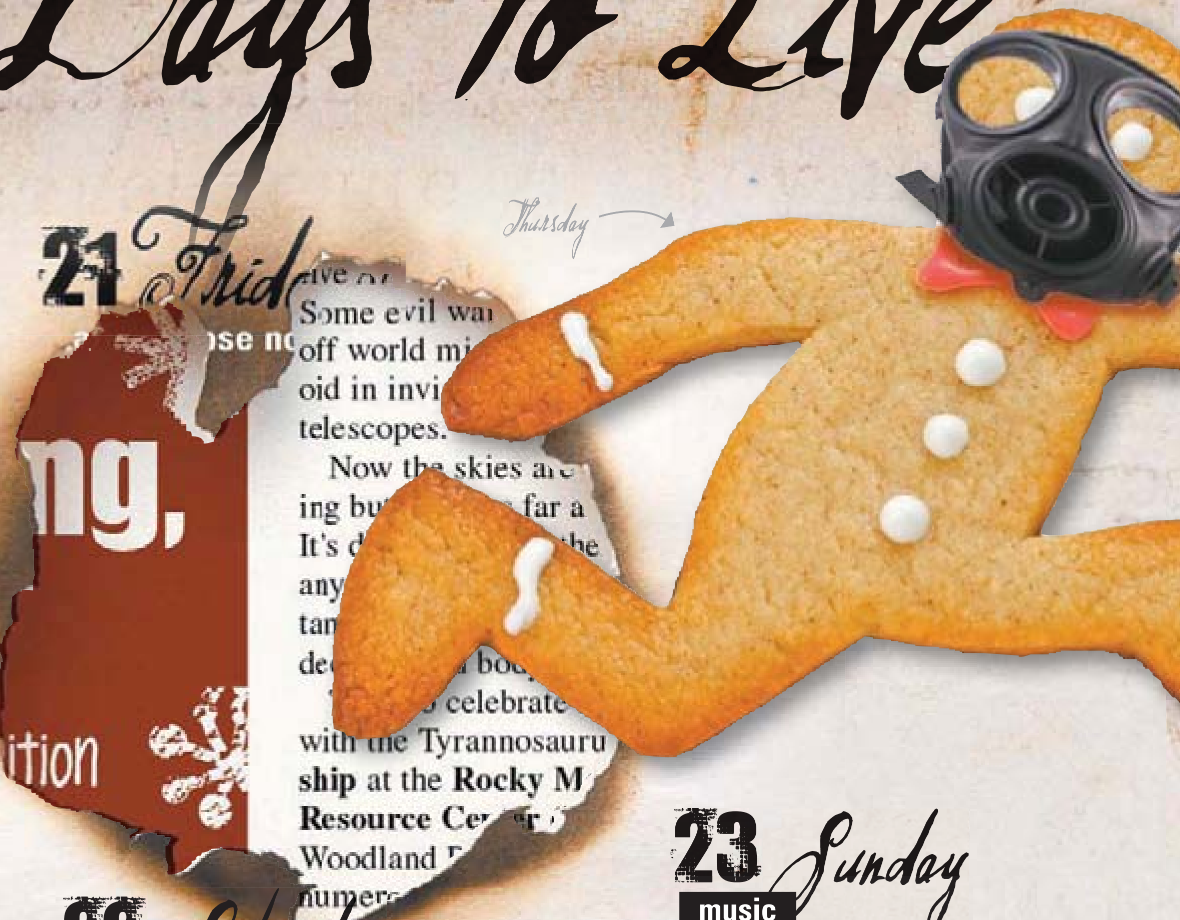
Pop stars are well known for moving from the studio to the stage — witness Ricky Martin in *Evita*, Ashlee Simpson in *Chicago*, David Bowie as the Elephant Man — but the reverse path is less traveled. Enter **Josh Franklin**, a Colorado Springs Conservatory alumnus who went on to rack up huge theatrical credentials, including his current gig as the male lead in the Broadway production of *Ghost*. In February, he's releasing a debut album of pop-jazz originals, which he'll be performing at this evening's **Home for the Holidays** concert and CD launch party in the Grand Ballroom of the **Mining Exchange Hotel** (8 S. Nevada Ave.). Showtime is 7, with proceeds from the $20 tickets, available at csconservatory.org, benefiting the Conservatory Scholarship Fund. *— BF*

20 Thursday

kids

"You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!" Or so he thought, up until the point when the anthropomorphic baked good was eaten by a fox at the conclusion of the classic fairy tale. Not that I'm saying your kid will be eaten by some woodland wanderer (though technically it *is* possible) at **Nature Explorers: The Gingerbread Man**, held from 10 to 11:30 today at **Bear Creek Nature Center** (245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387). Aimed at adult-accompanied youngsters ages 4 to 5, the $4-per-person children's activity session (reservations required) includes stories, a puppet show, crafts and a hike ... just keep that bite-sized tyke close by. *— MS*

21 Friday



22 Saturday

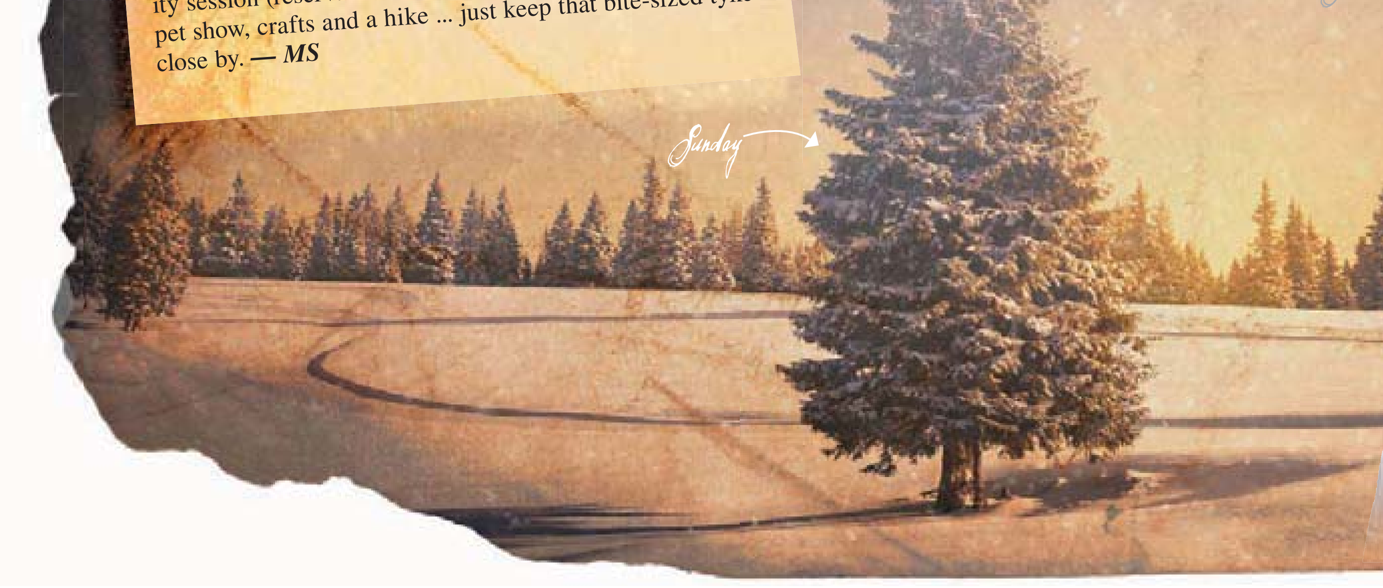
stage

The proverbial mouse is doing more than stirring in the house at the **Millibo Art Theatre** (1367 Pecan St., themat.org). In its third year of chronicling its original Christmas Mouse tales, the MAT returns this year with ***The Christmas Mouse on Holiday***, playing today — its final day — at 11 and 2. This time, said holiday mouse decides he needs a vacation, and with much to prepare, the Furry Mouse Mother and Olly the Rat must show the holiday spirit. Even if it doesn't stay true to *The Night Before Christmas*, it's sure to be a good time. Tickets are $10.50. *— CW*

23 Sunday

music

What song do the guests sing at an Eskimo Christmas party? "Freeze a Jolly Good Fellow." Ha ha, I *sleigh* myself. Ahem. OK, I'm not here just for comedy, but also to direct you to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic's ***Christmas Symphony***, starting at 2:30 today at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., tinyurl.com/aqvx7sn). With conductor Thomas Wilson, special guest mezzo-soprano Marcia Ragonetti and the Colorado Springs Chorale, expect tunes from ballets like *The Nutcracker* and movies like *Home Alone*, and songs like "(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays." Tickets run $19 to $59. *— KL*



24 Monday

art

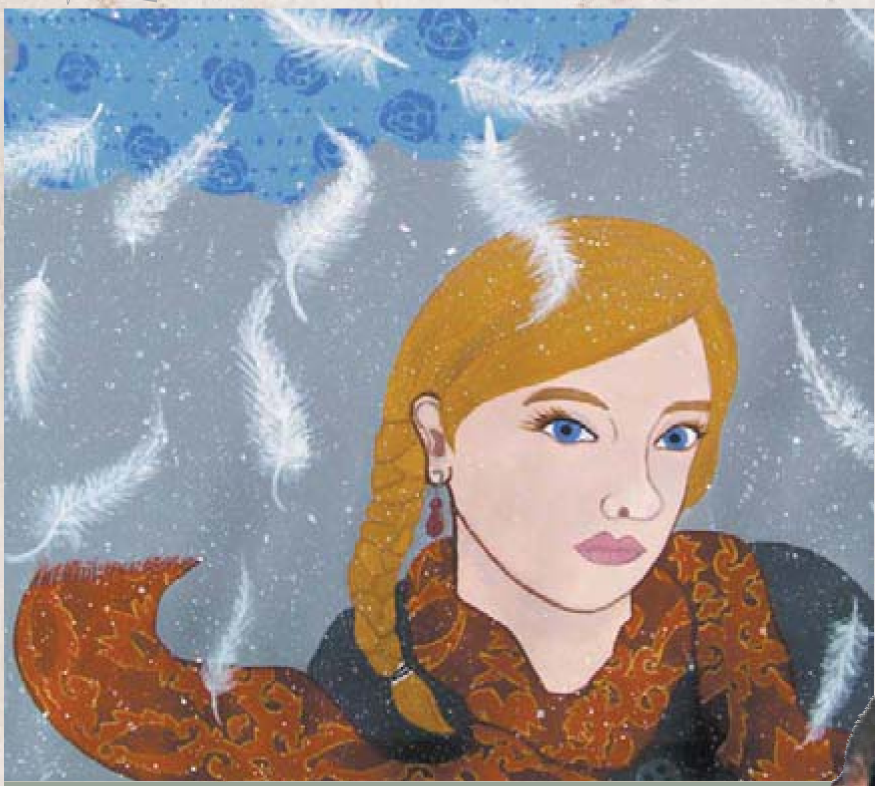
It's Christmas Eve, and you're either a) strolling free and easy amid the bright, sparkly, tinsel-y feeling of the season, or b) making that last-minute mad scramble for gifts. Here then, is a suggestion to suit both situations: ***Ever Afters?*** K8e Orr's newest art show happening at **safron of Manitou** (720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, facebook.com/safronofmanitousprings). Up through Jan. 18, this solo effort — based on folk tales from the Brothers Grimm — is eminently peruse-able, along with Orr's handmade jewelry and other pretty items that line the walls of the boutique. Now that's two birds with one bush in the hand, or whatever. ***— EA***

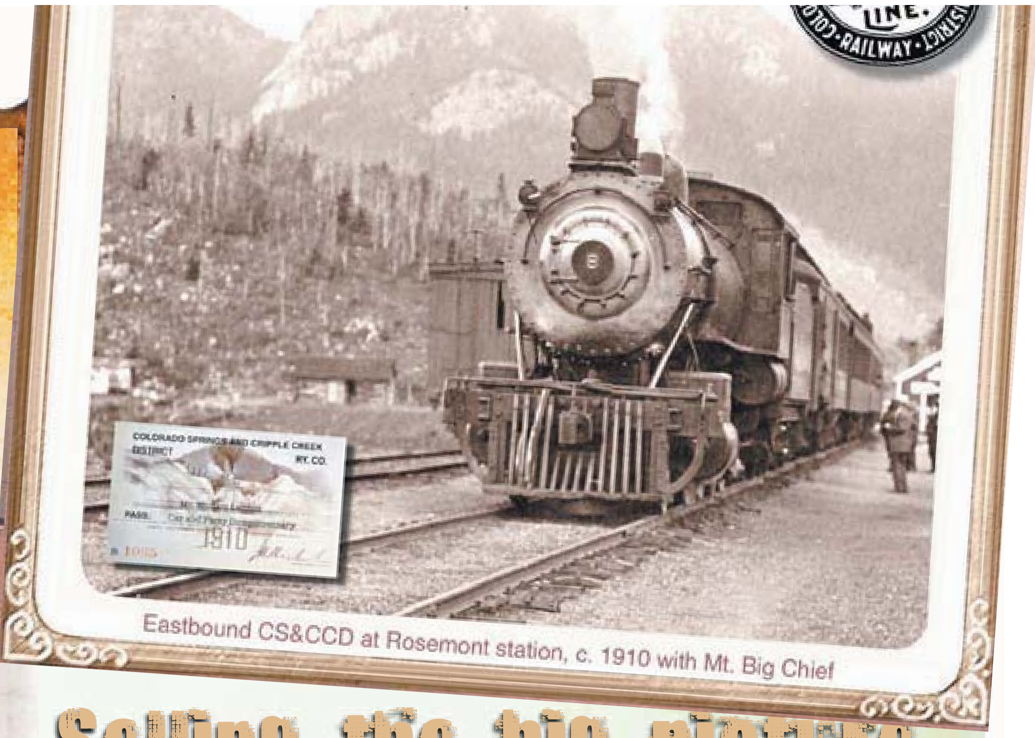
25 Tuesday

holiday

I've gone my whole life avoiding *It's a Wonderful Life* until just this year. Granted, I still wound up leaving before seeing the whole thing, but what I did see took me very pleasantly by surprise, starting with the angels' discussion in the beginning: "A man down on Earth needs our help." "Splendid. Is he sick?" "No, worse. He's discouraged." I know I'm coming to the party late (my kin were more Chevy Chase than James Stewart), but this **Christmas** is all about new traditions for my family, and many others out there, too, be it from events happy or sad. So this day's up to you — to spend with loved ones, or just George and Clarence. ***— EA***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Bill Forman, Kiki Lenihan, Matthew Schniper, and Celine Wright.

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1910

Eastbound CS&CCD at Rosemont station, c. 1910 with Mt. Big Chief

Selling the big picture

Murals are back, and they're starting to cover downtown

By Bret Wright

What if people came here from all over the world just to look at the sides of buildings, crawl around under bridges, and stare at ceilings? That'd be weird ... or maybe not.

If those tourists came to look at the murals that are becoming more and more common these days, that "what if" might not be so far-fetched. It might even be pretty cool.

After all, says Australian-born muralist Kim Polomka, in this genre, excellence rules.

"Sometimes mediocrity rules, but public artwork affects the environment of a city. You can't just go down some alley and start painting. You need to plan it."

The number of murals in the downtown area — where, despite some notable west-side creations, the highest concentration of them exists — is a little hard to pin down. If you're talking about murals available for viewing from the road, they number a little more than a dozen. But if you include interior spaces, and areas under bridges and such, the number can be as high as 30.

Polomka's work can be seen in several places, including his "Mozart @250" mural at Cascade and Pikes Peak avenues, and the Burns Theater Tribute mural on the west side of Kimball's Peak Three Theater. He's looking forward to starting work on his newest creation at The Lennox, on the corner of Tejon Street and Platte Avenue. The piece will honor the train that ran between Colorado Springs and Cripple Creek between 1890 and 1910 (the mock-up is pictured above).

But even Polomka's output is trumped by that of Eric Bransby. Dating back to the '40s, his work graces everything from Colorado College's Cossitt Hall to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, which unveiled his "rolling history" mural last year as part of its 75th anniversary celebration.

Trevor Thomas, who was Bransby's apprentice on the FAC project, says he notices a difference between the older and newer works. "A lot of the [older murals] in the city are decorative," he says, "but now people seem to want more substance."

Thomas himself likes working with historical images, and has recently been commissioned to paint a mural in the same hall at CC as that of his mentor. "I'm going for a little abstract, some Art Deco, and a historical tribute to Hanya Holm," one of America's most prominent dance instructors, who taught at CC for 43 summers.

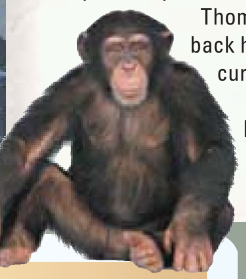
Such works testify to the vibrancy of Colorado Springs' arts community, and Polomka believes that community is ready to be recognized. In fact, "it's time we bloody well won the [Governor's Arts Award],"he says, referring to the annual state prize given to a town or city for "collective efforts to enhance their community and their economy through strategic use of the arts."

Douglas Rouse's 12 Mural Project was designed specifically with art tourism in mind. The flagship of the project — which he hopes to resume soon — is his nearly 10,000-square-foot *trompe l'oeil* piece covering the Warehouse Restaurant and Gallery at 25 W. Cimarron St.

Thomas says that the popularity of murals is cyclical, with a tradition going back hundreds of years. And Polomka tends to think that we as a collective are currently swinging back toward embracing them.

"Murals can do a lot — they can help uplift an area, you know? There's a lot going on already, and there's a lot of good going on."

— scene@csindy.com



4 PlaY
Other options to get you excited about your week.

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Potato pick
Project Nim documentary premiere, 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20 on HBO

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Appetite

Ground truth

SoDo's Urban Steam will school you on coffee

By Matthew Schniper

R&R Coffee Café roast master Ryan Wanner recently penned a blog in which he championed "SERIOUS coffee bars enter[ing] the scene," labeling two cohorts in particular as partners in elevation.

One of those is the "cleverly hidden" (as in, you thought Shuga's was off-strip) Urban Steam Coffee Bar and Cafe, operated by Kelly Bubach, formerly of the Acoustic Coffee Lounge. To observe just how serious a bean-blaster Bubach is, look no further than a series of posters mounted across the industrial-chic space, near décor such as welding masks and graffiti-ed locker units.

Bradley Flora

Savory and sweet waffles mate well with Urban Steam's caffeinated stars.

The posters, actually visual guides distributed by the Specialty Coffee Association of America, discuss "The Art of Aroma Perception in Coffee." They explain what's happening when a sampler detects everything from the smell of cucumber or toast in a coffee to "camphoric" and "horsey" notes.

Good to know: "Acids changing chemically" that yield kerosene and ethanol signatures aren't so yummy. And coffee roasted even a second too long loses certain desirable traits.

It's this type of esoteric meticulousness that reigns at Urban Steam, with Bubach pushing the gourmet boundaries of a panini press, waffle maker and microwave next to his pour-over bar. (With Japanese origins, pour-over is a slow, controlled hand pouring that supposedly produces a superior cup of coffee.) Slow food it is, particularly if there's an order or two ahead of you. And that's fine by Bubach, who's described his place as one in which to "slow down" and "chill."

CAPSULE

Urban Steam Coffee Bar and Cafe

1025 S. Sierra Madre St., 473-7832, urbansteamcoffee.com

Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The small-farm-sourced coffee service is bulletproof, with size-appropriate ceramic wear (a potent, two-shot, "flat white"-style cappuccino in a smaller portion than you're used to, for example, $2.95), very restrained and intentional creaming and foaming (see the latte, $3.25), and ready, informed answers for any questions.

I particularly enjoyed my Indian Anokhi Liberica pour-over ($3.25), a rare treat for the price considering that Bubach says he's the only U.S. roaster to have procured one of five 130-pound bags sold last year. A wildness prevails in it, especially when sniffing fresh grounds right out of the grinder basin that Bubach hands across the counter for olfactory inspection; he likens the coffee's flavors to chewing a cigar's tip.

As with certain red wines, there's a discernible barnyard element, where floral and earthy notes play and take new form with the addition of a touch of cream. (Not entirely a *faux pas*, I learn, whereas a splash of the complimentary agave, honey, cane sugar syrups or powdered stevia would overwhelm those subtle aromas and flavors.)

Bubach has developed a lighter-style food menu, borrowing from the Mediterranean and Europe at large (think: mint, feta and fig-jam crostini on the Meze Plate, $6.95) to avoid overpowering the drinks. The sandwiches ($5.95 to $6.95, with salad, chips or fruit) are simple, filling, fresh and fairly priced, the smoked pork Pig Iron a little bolder than the turkey-bearing Anvil or Grindstone. Belgian waffles ($3.50 to $6.95) are nicely dressed in savory and sweet arrangements, the cornmeal Del Waffle a highlight with piquant pico de gallo, and the Monkey Wrench a no-brainer with Nutella, banana, walnut and caramel.

Locally purveyed baked goods comprise more common coffee companions, but a small-batch California chocolatier's Dominican Republic bar, $8.99 for a mere 2 ounces, commands attention for dessert. Its lengthy tasting descriptions, invoking the "nuances of each bean," are of course right at home at Urban Steam's counter — as should you be, if you're serious about coffee.

— matthew@csindy.com

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Inspired by the "Whatever happened to ...?" series in our News section, here are updates on three initiatives, all of which (oddly enough) we first reported on in May.

Purgatory soon over

Ruffrano's Hell's Kitchen Pizza (hellskitchenmanitou.com) owner Nelson Rufran planned to have **Ruffrano's Heavenly Squeeze** open at 10 Ruxton Ave. by June, but the business has yet to crack its doors. Rufran says after the Waldo Canyon Fire hurt his business, he opted not to rush expansion. He says he's very close to finally opening, by Valentine's Day at the latest.

The initial vision of fresh-squeezed, organic fruit and veggie juices remains in place alongside smoothies, teas, and gluten-free pastries. But continuing to brainstorm thematically around the concept of heaven, Rufran has added another feature, aroma oxygen from "top-of-the-line" machines. He envisions the oxygen bar assisting Manitou Incline climbers and tourists from sea level.

"A breath of heaven," he says, unable to resist the pun that plays into his heaven-and-hell branding, which includes custom-made tables carved into cloud shapes and respective Adam and Eve bathroom signs. Once open, look for 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily hours.

Pork and barrel

The star-power-driven, barbecue-and-bourbon concept **Southern Hospitality** (1433 17th St., Denver, shdenver.com) had previously been aiming for an October-ish opening. But a common string of permitting and construction delays now has them announcing a January launch date on its website, where an employment application (around 80 will be hired) and menu are also available.

Gary Tedder, the Springs-based president of Southern Hospitality Franchisee Holding Corp., says he hopes that his son, famous OneRepublic frontman Ryan Tedder, will be on hand for the eventual opening, possibly alongside Justin Timberlake, co-creator of the original New York Southern Hospitality locations.

After this opening of the franchise's flagship Denver location (independent of the NYC stores), Gary says the plan is for two more of some 30 scheduled locations to be open by 2013's end.

Mani-brew still coming

Manitou Springs was slated to get its own brewery by year's end at 725 Manitou Ave., in the Promenade Building that in part houses LeGrande Accents Boutique. Building owner and brewer Kevin LeGrande now says he's aiming for summer 2013, citing no particular reasons for the setback other than "trying to plan for success."

LeGrande says he'll likely launch with his own beers. But he still plans to partner with a larger brewing outfit that would potentially bring "more of a presence than a nanobrewery," as he phrased it back in May.

— Matthew Schniper

APPETIZERS

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AMERICAN

Benny's 517 W. Colorado Ave. 634-9309	**Since 1953! Come on in** and check out our vintage sports photos & memorabilia! Happy Hour 4-7 pm Mon - Fri. Try our Fresh, hand stuffed jalapeno poppers or beer battered pickle spears. Try our Whiskey Chicken Sandwich or Benny's Bourbon burger. Fresh soup daily!
C'MON INN 711 Dale Street in Fountain 382-7562 cmoninnfountain.com	**Open Daily 11am-2am. C'mon in** & then come on back! Fountain's finest neighborhood tavern features burgers, pizza, wings, pool tables, darts & much more! Karaoke on Fridays & Saturdays. Free parking & wi-fi. Happy Hour 4-7pm daily. Go Broncos!
Good Company Bar and Grill 7625 N. Union Blvd. 528-8877	**Since 1986! The best Jumbo** Wings in town! Voted "The Best Karaoke bar" by the Independant 2006-2012! Open 11:00a.m.-2:00a.m. everyday! Happy Hour 4:00p.m.- 7:00p.m. Sunday through Friday. Join us for The College Football Ticket on Saturday and the NFL Ticket Thursday, Sunday and Monday.
Hatchcover Bar & Grill 252 E. Cheyenne Mtn. Blvd. (@ 115) 719-576-5223	**If bars are hairstyles, We're the mullet!** Large groups for business lunch by day, long flowing party by night! Menu ranges from fantastic nachos to juicy ribeyes! Specials day & night! 7 days a week, Open Late! Around since the 70's, our style just won't die!
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The Rabbit Hole 101 N.Tejon on Kiowa St. 719-203-5072	**Voted Best New Restaurant 2011** by *Indy* Readers! We offer Colorado products and vegetarian items, 25 different wines, 25 different beers. Open 7 nights a week with a full menu from 4 pm to 1:30 am. Over 25 items.
South Side Johnny's 528 S. Tejon St. 444-8487	**Daily 11am-2am. "It's better to** eat at a bar, than drink at a restaurant." South downtown bar and grill serving burgers, steaks, pastas, salads, and classic home-style entrees like meat loaf & open faced carvings. Big screen TV, free parking, Happy Hour Daily 4-7.
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Tony's 311 N. Tejon St. 228-6566 tonysdowntownbar.com	**Daily 11am- 2am. Aahhh Jeeze-** Who doesn't love a Midwestern Tavern? Pabst, Fried Cheese Curds, Old Style, Butter Burgers, Hamm's, Rueben's, Leinenkugle's, Beer Battered Walleye & more. Voted "Best Neighborhood Bar" 13 yrs., "Bang for your Buck" 8 yrs., & "Hang-out" 3 yrs. & "College Bar" 2 yrs. HH 4-7! Go Pack Go!
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Ritz Grill 15 S. Tejon St. 635-8484	**Voted Best Staff, lunch, &** Mixed Drinks. The friendly, art-deco atmosphere of the Ritz is a longtime favorite of the downtown crowd. Also known for live bands, D.J.s and signature martinis. Check out the Elbo Room downstairs for private parties and meetings.
Springs Orleans 123 E. Pikes Peak 520-0123	**Serving Cajun Classics & Local Favorites** for breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Also offering late night dining Friday and Saturdays till 1:00am. Happy Hour nightly 4pm - 6pm and 9pm – Close.

BREW PUB

Phantom Canyon Brewing Co. 2 E. Pikes Peak Ave. 635-2800	**Housed in an historic downtown** landmark building with award-winning handcrafted ales and excellent food in an open comfortable atmosphere. Breakfast and Bloody Mary specials Sundays. Second floor billiard hall w/nightly specials and third floor banquet facilities. Open at 11 a.m. daily.

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Jun 1760 Dublin Blvd., 531-9368 3276 Centennial Blvd., 227-8690	**Hours: Mon-Fri 11-2, Sat noon-3.** Sun-Thurs 5-9pm, Fri-Sat 5-10. Happy hour, daily 5-6, Fri-Sat 9-10. Full Japanese menu including teriyaki, tempura and a thorough sushi selection. Jun serves both foreign and domestic beers, as well as sake and wine.
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Dine&Dash Quick takes on food and drink

Raven’s Nest Coffee

330 N. Institute St., 632-3433, ravensnestcoffee.com

Raven’s Nest is on our city’s short list of charming, off-the-main-drag coffee spots, probably entirely unknown to most people who don’t commute along Boulder Street or live nearby. Young, first-time proprietor Ashleigh Cohen took it over around 2½ years ago, opting to use locally roasted BuyWell Fair Trade Coffee as her java connection.

In the house signature drink, the **Ash Kicker** ($4.15), three shots of espresso (I get half-decaf) are met with chocolate, hazelnut and caramel Monin syrups, then a thick foam cap. It’s much less sugary than I worried it might be and actually quite in balance, as a nutty, mild sweetness rides on the strong espresso punch. A **sausage breakfast burrito** ($3.75) is by contrast prosaic, lacking salt, spice and any distinguishing flavor, especially paired with a generic, tame salsa. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Alfonso’s Mexican Food

1022 S. 21st St., 575-9289

Alfonso’s is almost as iconic a west-side staple as its more expensive cross-street neighbor, Carlos’ Bistro, and offers roughly the same kind of thing — food that makes you happy to eat. I’d say that once you’re inside, the restaurant doesn’t look all that different from the Taco Stars of the city, but have you ever seen one offering an 18-inch-long dive into burrito debauchery?

Meet the **Big Don Pancho Burrito** ($11.99). This baby’s as big as a small fire log, and at 6 inches across — not to mention crammed with carne asada, good refried beans, rice, salsa, cheese, sour cream and gut-sticking guacamole — easily feeds three people. We recommend cutting it into sections, using the wrapping as a bottom, then shoving the beast in at a medium pace. While that’s happening, the counter’s likely full, the drive-thru’s hopping, and you might even overhear a friendly, “Feliz navidad.” — ***Bryce Crawford***

José Muldoon’s

222 N. Tejon St., 636-2311, josemuldoons.com

It’s been three years since this Concept Restaurants staple has had a significant menu overhaul, so I head downtown to grub on new additions. The **chile lime shrimp salad** ($11.99) comes off colorful and (mostly) nicely presented: cucumber and (mostly) shapely avocado slices round the rim, and pleasantly seasoned and adequately cooked prawns curl over a bed of (mostly) fresh romaine leaves. With some crisp red cabbage, tomato, sharp red onion bits, oddly un-toasted pumpkin seeds and a skimpy crumble of queso fresco, it’s OK.

The **Muldooniac Burrito** ($11.99) arrives as a heat-lamp victim, with a wrinkly skin over the chile con queso and a (shouldn’t-be) warm corn-pico relish. The mean green chile is nicely spicy, if thick. But bites incorporating both sauces with creamy guacamole and interior rice, black beans and shredded pork are comfort-food heavy and amply flavorful. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Our cardiovascular team just got stronger.

Memorial Hospital, now a part of University of Colorado Health, welcomes the physicians and staff of Pikes Peak Cardiology to our cardiovascular team.

As part of University of Colorado Health, Memorial’s medical strength now stretches from Colorado Springs to southern Wyoming. Patients and physicians are connected to one of the deepest, broadest and most-honored teams of health care experts in the world. Memorial Hospital and University of Colorado Health—a bold new health care system becoming bigger and bolder.

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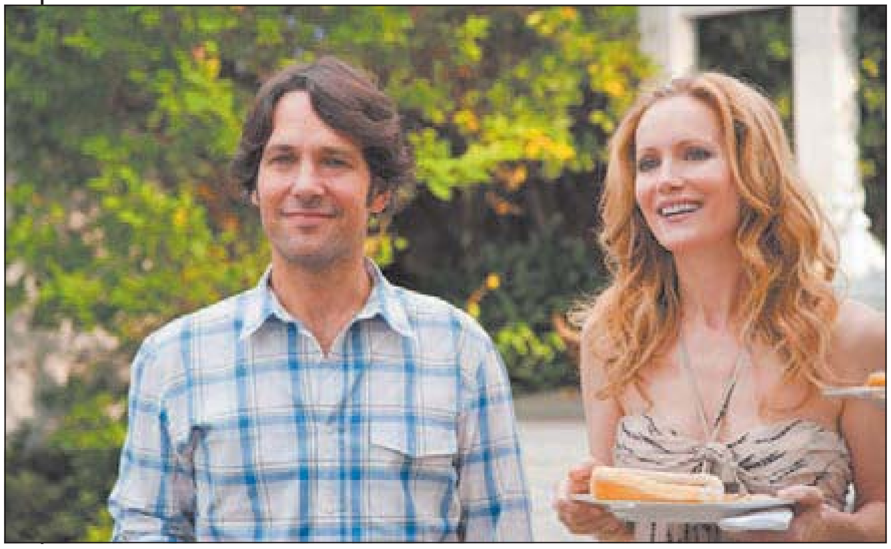
Messy midlife

This Is 40 (R)

By Scott Renshaw



Yes, you'll smile and laugh plenty in Judd Apatow's latest film. But you'll also stare blankly at the superfluous story structure, in need of an edit.

I have a dream that, one of these days, Judd Apatow is going to make a 100-minute comedy so tightly packed with great material that you're not going to be able to breathe from the laughing. It will absolutely freaking kill.

That's not to say Apatow's other films haven't been funny. As director of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up* and *Funny People*, and as writer and producer of several other recent comedies, he's probably delivered as many laughs over the past seven years as anyone making movies.

But he also doesn't remotely understand the concept that less is more. His characters' discursive conversations just keep going, and his movies' running times just keep growing, with the 146-minute *Funny People* dragging into *Lord of the Rings* territory.

Apatow's latest, *This Is 40*, once again shows that he's a genius at coming up with funny stuff for funny people to do, and pretty clueless when it comes to wrangling that stuff into a manageable form. He spins off a larger tale from *Knocked Up* supporting characters Pete (Paul Rudd) and Debbie (Leslie Mann), a married couple heading into the week when both of them will turn 40. They're dealing with the stuff so many couples deal with at this crossroads age: the drama of having adolescent kids; financial uncertainties; sexual insecurities; watching your body deteriorate; and wondering what part of your family baggage you're bringing to your own relationships.

It is familiar domestic comedy ground, but Apatow mines it for several brilliantly funny sequences. Debbie gets a magnificent tirade at the classmate of her oldest daughter, Sadie (Apatow and Mann's daughter, Maude Apatow), who's insulting Sadie on Facebook, followed by an equally epic confrontation between the traumatized boy's mother (Melissa McCarthy) and the school principal. The cast is full of sharp comedic performances, led by the terrific Mann but also featuring snappy supporting work by Albert Brooks as Pete's perpetually money-mooching father and Apatow regular Jason Segel as Debbie's personal trainer.

Those performances have to carry a lot of the film's burden, because Apatow really doesn't build in a traditional story arc. *This Is 40* swings through the bickering and making up that seems to compose a large chunk of Pete and Debbie's life, a structure that might be maddening to those who don't recognize those uneven rhythms of a marriage trying to rediscover its firm foundation.

Between the punch lines, Apatow finds something fairly wise about the hard work of continuing to be a good partner, and the times one justifies avoiding anything that might rock the boat. It's less a story arc than it is a roller-coaster between moments of bliss and wondering whether everything is too screwed up to salvage.

That concept works somewhat in Apatow's favor, because it's hard to imagine what his editor does to earn a paycheck. If he wants to spend time hanging out with British rocker Graham Parker — playing himself as the new act signed by Pete's fledgling record company — you can bet he'll carve out screen time for it. His characters' tangents are often full of crackling one-liners, but there are times when the shaggy, unkempt pacing of *This Is 40* makes you long for something more ruthlessly constructed than the version here that runs 136 minutes. A variously attributed quote about the art of writing tells creators that they need to "murder their darlings"; when *This Is 40* loads us up with scenes involving Apatow's own children squabbling over *Lost* episodes, the expression takes on another level entirely.

Perhaps it's because *This Is 40* is so smart and satisfying when it's "on," that it's hard not to wish he was prepared to leave us wanting more, rather than leave in everything that other directors turn into the DVD "deleted scenes" extras. It's easy to understand why Apatow adores his characters and the hilarious things they say. Imagine how amazing it could be if he had a better sense for how to shape all that into an actual movie.

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Anna Karenina (R)	💿	💿	🍿	🍿
Deadfall (R)	🦃	💿	💿	💎
Hitchcock (PG-13)	💿	🍿	🍿	💿
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)	💿	💿	🍿	💿
This Is 40 (R)	💿	🍿	💿	💎

KEY
💎 Brilliant
🍿 Enjoy
💿 Wait for DVD
🦃 Lame

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WHY THEY FIGHT
FEATURING: TAKE IT TO 88

Sat, Jan. 5th - 8:00pm
FATHER JOHN MISTY
FEATURING: MAGIC TRICK, EL TORO DE LA MUERTE

Fri, Jan. 11th - 7:30pm
TILL WE RISE
FEATURING: LIBERATOR, TELLING FALSE TIME, FORSAKE IT ALL

Fri, Jan. 18th - 8:00pm
REVEREND HORTON HEAT
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FEATURING: STICK FIGURE, THE MAAD T-RAY, OFFBEAT REVOLUTION

Thu, Jan. 24th - 8:00pm
SEA WOLF
FEATURING: THE DONNYS THE AMYS, WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT,

Fri, Jan. 25th - 7:00pm
CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR
FEATURING: SPECIAL GUESTS

Sat, Jan. 26th - 7:00pm
NONPOINT
FEAT: CANDLELIGHT RED, DIGITAL SUMMER

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JAN 31 - IRATION
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FEB 2 - KRADDY
FEB 3 - THE ROUGE
FEB 5 - HATEBREED
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS
FEB 10 - EL TEN ELEVEN
FEB 13 - THE ROUGE
FEB 22 - BALLYHOO!
FEB 25 - TREMONTI
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
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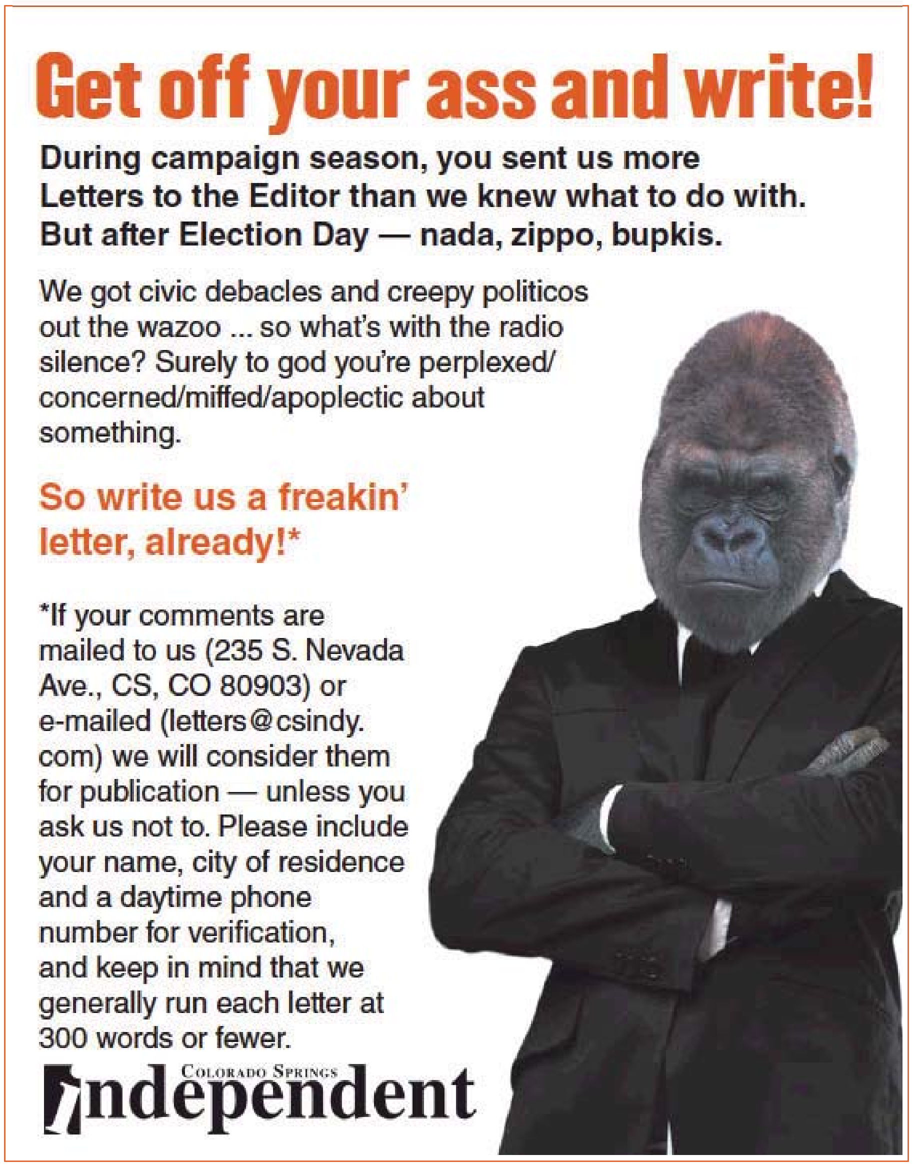
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During campaign season, you sent us more Letters to the Editor than we knew what to do with. But after Election Day — nada, zippo, bupkis.

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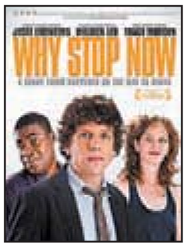
*If your comments are mailed to us (235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903) or e-mailed (letters@csindy.com) we will consider them for publication — unless you ask us not to. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification, and keep in mind that we generally run each letter at 300 words or fewer.

Colorado Springs Independent

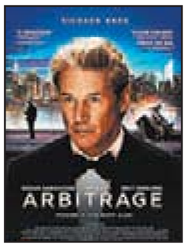
CineFiles



Why Stop Now (R)

IFC Films

Vampiric Jesse Eisenberg is a piano prodigy on the way to a make-or-break audition. But before he gets there, he has to drop his crackhead mama (Melissa Leo) off at rehab. Why he couldn't do this on a less important day isn't clear, but all plots need contrivances. Like before they check in, mom's gotta be high as eff to get admitted. This leads them to the house of her dealer Sprinkles (the always hilarious Tracy Morgan, who really shouldn't have to play a drug dealer anymore) and, from there, on a journey for drugs, leading to viewer overdose on forced quirkiness. *Why Stop Now* definitely has that indie-film sheen of manufactured zaniness that's more tiresome than fun. The highlight of the movie is Morgan, who's always worth the price of any admission, but don't stop what you're doing to watch this now. Maybe wait until tomorrow. — ***Louis Fowler***



Arbitrage (R)

Lionsgate (releases Dec. 21)

Written and directed by relative newcomer Nicholas Jarecki, brother of filmmakers Andrew and Eugene, *Arbitrage* mirrors its maker's youth and pedigree in equal parts. Starring Richard Gere, it's an elegantly photographed, lushly designed chamber piece. Gere, a financial power player, is trying to close a major deal before the feds descend on fraud charges; then he accidentally kills his mistress in a car crash, and scrambles to cover it up. Jarecki commands powerful performances from Gere and Susan Sarandon, playing his wife, but mostly keeps the supporting players running in place before the courtroom drama engine reliably revs up. Things play out with depressing predictability, and Jarecki's limited reference points really hamper the proceedings. Still, it's a joy to watch Gere and Sarandon coast their way through yet another one of these flicks. — ***Justin Strout***

The Point: The Definitive Collector's Edition (G)

MVD Visual

There was a time when children's specials were able to teach important lessons without being dumbed down. There was no need to resort to in-your-face theatrics or, worse, Happy Meal tie-ins. Only the most talented of celebrities would take part, and it was a viewing experience that the entire family could rally around. Case in point, 1971's wonderful *The Point*, with songs from Harry Nilsson and narration by Ringo Starr. In a faraway place called The Land of Point, everyone and everything has, well, a point. When round-headed Oblio is cast off to the Pointless Forest, he comes to learn that not everything needs to have a point and, even more profound, not having a point can really make you stand out from the mediocre masses. Take it literally or take it metaphorically, but children and adults can walk away from *The Point* feeling proud to wallow in their nonconformity. — ***Louis Fowler***

Film

The gift of thought

Holiday DVD releases for the inquisitive on your list

By Louis Fowler

With so many big-name movies like *The Dark Knight Rises*, *The Bourne Legacy* and *Ted* being released on DVD just in time for the holidays, it's easy to forget that companies like A&E and History are also dropping some great titles that educate as well as entertain. With that in mind, here's a little rundown from which all of us hopefully can learn.

DUCK DYNASTY

Selling duck calls made the Robertson family rich. Find your own wealth of gift ideas, many not so weird, in this column.

Let's start at the beginning — literally. The exhaustive 12-hour series *Mankind: The Story of All of Us* (History, $34.95) takes viewers from the very roots of civilization to the discovery of America, all without the stodginess of having to read some stupid history book, and in beautiful high-definition, no less — the way God surely wanted it.

If the history of humanity is a little too much for you, start small and focus on two heroes, past and present. *Shaka Zulu* (A&E, $39.98) is the epic 10-part miniseries, beautifully restored, about the legendary 19th-century African king who stood in defiance of the British colonists. More modern is *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry* (Sundance Selects, $24.98), a stirring documentary that focuses on the Chinese artist who has defiantly taken on the government with his unapologetically outspoken political works.

But maybe those topics are a bit too "heavy" for a typical holiday hoedown. When the out-of-this-world aspects of information are more a gift-getter's style, blast off with the unidentified flying double-shot of *UFO Archives* (History, $44.98) and *Ancient Aliens* (History, $99.95). Clocking in at six discs, *UFO Archives* is everything you could possibly ever want to know about America's history with visitors from other worlds: From Roswell to the Majestic 12, no space-rock is left unturned.

The even-more-packed *Ancient Aliens* runs a brisk 12 discs and thoroughly covers mankind's tumultuous history with extraterrestrials, and how they kindly helped build the world in its infancy and beyond. Try to present that in your next history report, Junior!

A&E has also released a trio of its best reality shows that, while maybe not educational historically, will definitely teach viewers a thing or two sociologically. *Duck Dynasty: Season One* ($19.98) is the story of the Robertsons and their duck-calling empire — yes, one can have one — and is fraught with constant bayou drama.

Moving from the Bayou to the Big Apple, *Shipping Wars: Season One* ($19.98) focuses on the men and women who, um, ship things on trucks coast-to-coast and under deadline. Finally, the Lone Star spin-off *Storage Wars Texas: Season One* ($19.98) presents bidders vying for those very things that were shipped and forgotten about, all in Stetsons and boots. If anything, you'll learn just how much you're not a fan of Texas.

Of course if none of those inspire, you can always take a course with buxom instructor Elvira, Mistress of the Dark. In *Elvira's Movie Macabre: Mega Movie Marathon* (Entertainment One, $34.98), the beloved, Colorado Springs-reared horror hostess guides lecherous eyes through 12 of the worst movies known to modern man, including *The Werewolf of Washington*, *The Brain That Wouldn't Die* and *Jesse James Meets Frankenstein's Daughter*. Sure, you might not learn much from these, but then again, there's surely a lesson to be gleaned in how *not* to make a movie, no?

— scene@csindy.com

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FinePrint

Perfect pages

Look beyond the bestsellers for everyone on your list

By Kel Munger

Look, buying books for someone else isn't an easy task. There are the worries: "Will she think I'm trying to change her?" "What if he — oh, no! — doesn't like science fiction?"

But it's much easier to buy a book that will surprise, amaze and interest the people for whom you're shopping if you head for the odd, off-the-wall, genuinely excellent and little-known books of the year. In short, go for what everyone else is missing.

WILDERNESS
COME BACK
a novel
a land more kind than home
WILEY CASH

Fiction

That's easy to do with fiction, where a handful of literary novels share all the attention with the usual best-selling crap (which this year happened to be softcore teen vampire fanfiction repackaged as the ultimate female-friendly BDSM trilogy).

Start with ***Wilderness*** (Bloomsbury USA, $25/hardcover), the debut novel by Lance Weller that's slipping under the book-biz radar, perhaps due to all-too-frequent public relations comparisons to *Cold Mountain*. That's silly, since all the two books have in common, really, is the presence of a Civil War veteran on a walk.

Weller's novel has a frame story wrapped around two narrative strands about the same man, Abel Truman, at two different times in his life. One takes place during 1864's Battle of the Wilderness, while the other recounts Truman's attempt to walk over Washington state's Olympic Mountains in the last days of the 19th century. *Wilderness* is not just about one man, though; this remarkable piece addresses the way racism cuts across our history and lives, leaving welts and scars in its wake, and is well worth lingering over.

Another top-notch novel that hasn't been widely read — probably because it's been shelved in "science fiction" — is *Come Back* (ECW Press, $18.95/paperback) by Sky Gilbert. The protagonist is an aging, disabled feminist scholar named Frances Gumm. If that sounds just slightly familiar, it might be that you know her by her stage name: Judy Garland.

In Gilbert's story, it's 2050, and thanks to multiple liver transplants and other only-for-the-big-stars medical technology, Garland didn't die in 1969. Instead, she's 138 years old and writing about a dead gay Canadian playwright. The novel romps through theater, and feminist, gay and identity theory, and covers more addiction ground than a Saturday night at a busy nightclub. It's a smart, vicious and snort-your-coffee funny book that will leave you wishing Garland really was a college professor in hiding somewhere.

Wiley Cash's novel ***A Land More Kind Than Home*** (William Morrow, $24.99/hardcover) is another under-the-radar gem. It's got elements of a mystery to it — how, precisely, did a mute boy die during a church service? — as well as family drama. Oh, and a smarmy preacher with a congregation full of people willing to take up serpents. That's right, they're snake-handlers. And in some parts of the country, it's not as rare an example of devotion as one might think.

Nonfiction

On the nonfiction front, there's no shortage of impossibly good and terribly interesting books that will be passed by in the rush for the next political jeremiad.

TOMBSTONE
THE GREAT CHINESE FAMINE
1958–1962
YANG JISHENG
ISRAEL / PALESTINE
and the Queer International
SARAH SCHULMAN
THE UNDERWATER WELDER

For a serious history buff, especially those who like "forgotten" or "hidden" history, pick up ***Tombstone: The Great Chinese Famine, 1958-1962*** (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, $35/hardcover) by Yang Jisheng. Yang, a journalist and former member of the Chinese Communist Party, spent years interviewing the survivors of this government-created disaster, which killed upward of 30 million Chinese during Mao's "Great Leap Forward."

Some starved to death and some were killed by the CCP cadres; a not-insignificant number were cannibalized. Yang's book, which he intended as a memorial to his foster father who died of starvation at the time, is detailed, frightening, accurate and unsparing in its indictment of any government that restricts information and creates an atmosphere in which people fear to speak the truth. It's also banned in China.

If you've got some outrageously smart and savvy readers on your list, especially if they identify as queer or LGBT, consider ***Israel/Palestine and the Queer International*** (Duke University Press, $22.95/paperback) by Sarah Schulman. The novelist, playwright and activist writes about her own "deliberate ignorance" about the treatment of Palestinians by the state of Israel; her experience in refusing an invitation to speak at a gay conference in Tel Aviv and instead meeting with supporters of the Palestinian cause — gay and straight, Israeli and Palestinian — and how it spurred even more activism on her part.

What's most useful about the book, even if the reader doesn't end up necessarily agreeing with all her points, is that Schulman offers an honest and unflinching look at her step-by-step process for challenging her own biases. It's courageous work, and something we don't see nearly enough of, especially when it comes to hot-button issues.

Another excellent work that's escaped widespread notice is on America's most uncomfortable subject: race. Salon columnist Joan Walsh takes on the problem of the white working class — a group she knows from the inside out — in ***What's the Matter With White People? Why We Long for a Golden Age That Never Was*** (Wiley, $25.95/hardcover). As a working-class white woman and life-long blue collar Democrat, Walsh is in a unique position to get at the discomfort and sense of entitlement that have led so many people in that group — including many of her own relatives — to jump ship for the Republican base. Even better, she cuts through the "us vs. them" thinking that persists in the Democratic Party and which does so much damage when reaching out to that demographic, mostly because it crashes on the shoals of class.

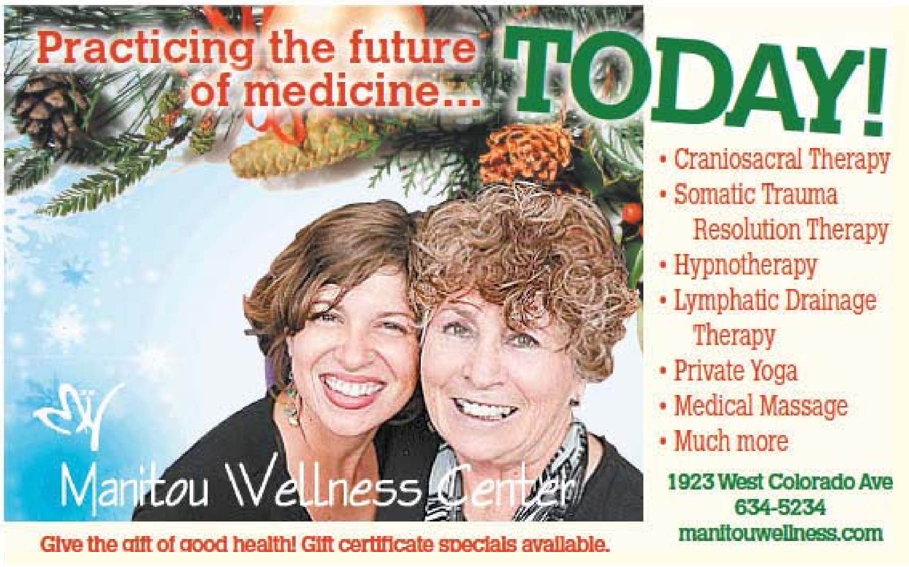
In fact, buy an extra copy of this book to keep. Anything that makes a white person this uncomfortable belongs on the bookshelf.

Graphic novels

Finally, there are some absolutely awesome graphic novels out there for giving this year. The big one, of course, is Chris Ware's magnificent ***Building Stories*** (Pantheon, $50/hardcover), but there are some others well worth giving to friends to reintroduce the pleasures of a well-done graphic piece.

Start with ***The Underwater Welder*** (Top Shelf, $19.95/paperback), Jeff Lemire's emotional and emotive paen to fatherhood, or try the graphic novel version of *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* (Vertigo, $19.99), written by Denise Mina, a mystery/thriller author with more than enough cred to handle the job. Call 'em graphic novels, call 'em upscale comic books; either way, they're wonderful gifts.

— scene@csindy.com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AudioFile

Music exchange

Sound holiday choices guaranteed not to elicit yawns

By Tyler Kane

Even in an era of digital downloading, you can still find plenty of music-oriented gifts that are infinitely more interesting than that generic iTunes or Amazon gift card you've been considering. So here, for your last-minute shopping consideration, is a guide to some of this year's best box sets, most interesting books and coolest accessories — any of which should bring a smile to the face of the true music fan on your holiday shopping list.

For the collector

The Beatles Stereo Vinyl Box Set
Price: Around $350

Pricey, to be sure. But then, this *is* the Fab Four. Here are all of The Beatles' albums you want and need — including all 12 of their original U.K. releases — in one convenient box set, with 180-gram vinyl pressings and a massive 252-page hardbound book. It might be painful to shell out the cash, but it should absolutely please any Beatlemaniac.

Blur 21: The Box
Price: Around $175

If you missed the boat on some of the best Britpop of the '90s, it's not too late to discover Blur with this massive, 21-disc box set that covers the band's entire catalog while also celebrating the 21st birthday of its debut album, *Leisure*. The set includes the obligatory hardback book, three live DVDs and lots of rarities, making this a collection we'd love to revisit yearly.

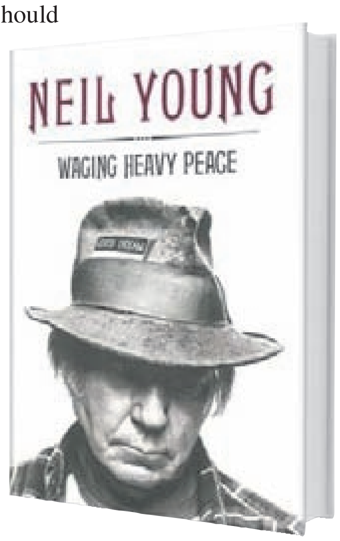
Woody at 100: The Woody Guthrie Centennial Collection
Price: $69.99

With a birthday of July 14, 1912, Woody Guthrie would have hit 100-years-old this year. And there's no better way to celebrate the legendary songwriter's life than with a three-disc, career-spanning box set. The collection includes the best-known tracks plus 21 rarities and a 154-page book packed with art and essays.

For the literate

***Waging Heavy Peace* by Neil Young**
Price: $30

Due to its wandering nature, legendary rocker Neil Young's *Waging Heavy Peace* might only be for hardcores. It's a sprawling memoir that also explores his take on musical roots, family life and the challenges of staying relevant. At 500-plus pages, there's plenty of material for longtime Young fans. To earn bonus points, pair it with his excellent new *Psychedelic Pill* album.



SHUT UP AND PLAY THE HITS
THE VERY LOUD ENDING OF
LCD SOUNDSYSTEM

***LCD*, an LCD Soundsystem photobook**
Price: $29.95

Although LCD Soundsystem might have broken up last year, they're making themselves hard to forget with bandleader James Murphy's various odd jobs, the behemoth documentary *Shut Up and Play the Hits*, and now a 216-page photobook by Ruvan Wijesooriya, who has been taking photos of the band since 2004. The book includes an engaging forward penned by Murphy himself.

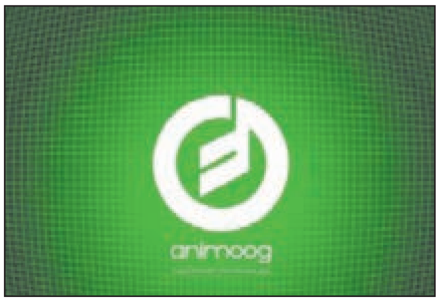
***Will Oldham on Bonnie "Prince" Billy*, edited by Alan Licht**
Price: $16.95

Paired with editor Alan Licht, Will Oldham produces what my fellow reviewer Elias Leight called a "book-length interview" with himself. Between the two, it introduces more into the life of the elusive Oldham than we ever could have hoped for, including his unique philosophies on creating music under the Bonnie "Prince" Billy moniker.

For the musician

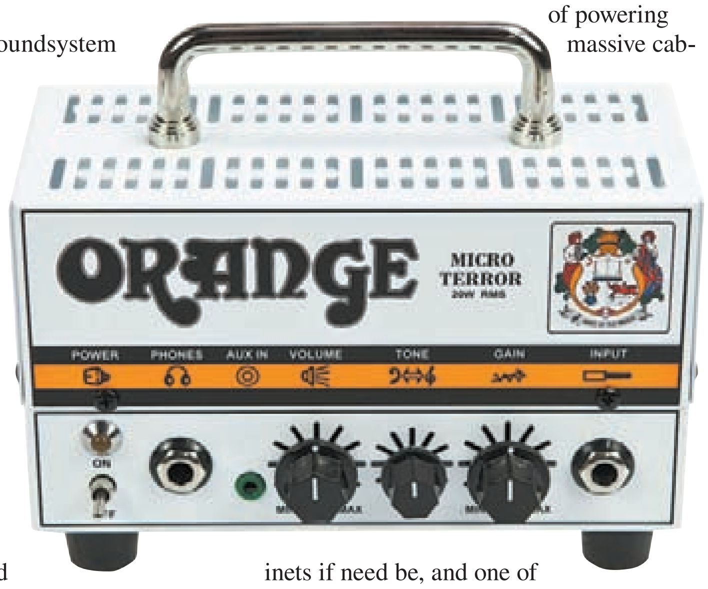
Animoog by Moog Music Inc.
Price: $9.99 for iPhone, $29.99 for iPad

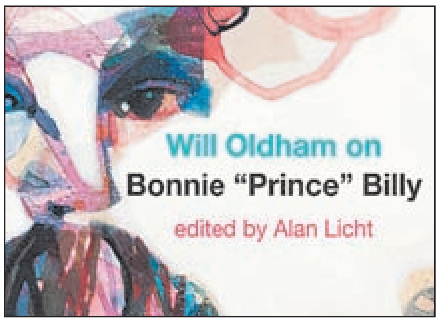
If you're hesitant to drop $30 on an app, we can guarantee there will be no regrets with this one. Moog Music's Animoog app brings the amazing quality of Moog synthesizers to the iPhone and iPad. While the instrument is set up to be utilized by those who can already play keyboards, it's intuitive enough for musicians and music fans alike to get a kick out of the synth's amazing capabilities, featuring a massive library of signature timbres and features found on the iconic original synths. Add in a recording function, and you'll be crafting your own synth-centered songs in no time.



Orange Micro Terror
Price: $199

If you've ever wanted all the power Orange amplifiers are known for but don't have the cash (or neighbors with a love of great guitar tone), the Orange Micro Terror is for you. It's a tiny package that's capable of powering massive cabinets if need be, and one of the main pluses for traveling or practicing musicians is in the ¼-inch headphone jack for crushing tone at any volume.





Pick Punch
Price: $24.95

You can teach a man to fish and he'll eat for life, and you can buy your favorite guitarist a pick press, and he or she will stop rushing to the guitar store every few weeks or so after losing them by the handful. This interesting little item allows musicians to punch picks out of pretty much anything — our favorite post-holiday resource being our credit cards, of course.

A version of this article previously appeared on pastemagazine.com.

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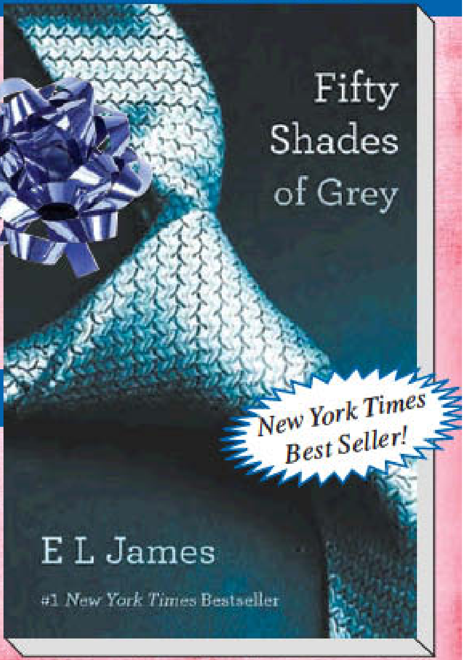

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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

Two-thousand-one-two, party over, oops, out of time ...

So in our last column, you may recall our mentioning a number of local end-times shows taking place this Friday, including **"The Last Headbang"** at **Venue 515** and **Melting Temple**'s Jonestown-themed **"End of the World Meeting"** at **Zodiac.**

And yes, there's more where those came from. So if you're one of those folks whose final moments on Earth must be spent in the company of other local music fans, here are some additional doomsday shows to consider.

Exclusive image of Grant Sabin selling his soul to Blank Tape Records' Inaiah Lujan.

To get a one-day jump on the festivities, check out this Thursday's **"End of the World Dance Party"** at **Copperhead Road.** The evening will feature sets by **DJ Nate Starr** and **John Stewart** (who was profiled in last week's issue after his remastering of *The Grey Album* got all viral.)

Moving on to the infamous Friday the 21st, **Meadow Muffins** will present **"Last Cypher on Earth"** with the **Charlie Milo Trio.** Local emcees will be getting on stage to freestyle during the band's last set, which will presumably be well under way before the doomsday clock strikes midnight.

Also on Friday, you can catch the **"End of the World Rumble"** with **Sanguine Addiction** at **Rawkus**. Or **Kinfolks' "Last Night on Earth… with Edith Makes a Paper Chain."** Or — deep breath — **Phantom Canyon's "End of the World Party and Empty Stocking Fundraiser"** with the **Mike Nelson Band**.

There's also **Union Station's "End of the World Party"** with **Arch Hooks**, as well as the **"Triple Nickel Anniversary Show Night 1: End of the World Party."** (A "Night 2" is scheduled for Saturday, but we'll just have to see about that.)

I'm sure you get the idea. Check the adjacent Playing Around listings for more details on Armageddon events going on at a venue near you.

OK, we'll be getting back to the future — what there is of it — in just a moment. But first let's talk about last Friday's party for the release of **Grant Sabin**'s blues-steeped *Anthromusicology* album.

The Haunted Windchimes will be headlining a 'Concert for Sophie' benefit this Thursday.

With its 500-plus turnout, the show fell just short of a sellout, which has only been accomplished by two local acts in the venue's history. (Namely, **Jake Loggins**' return from "retirement" last February, and the **Haunted Windchimes**' own CD release party back in April.)

The Windchimes were also on Friday's bill, which makes sense since *Anthromusicology* is on their **Blank Tape** label. Gathered around a single vocal mic, they delivered a set of timeless folk originals that had the understated power of a band like **Low**, albeit without the electric instruments and existential angst.

The **Grant Sabin Band** followed, performing standout songs like "Dreamin'" and "Market of Sorrow" in a way that made the recorded versions all the more evocative when I went back to listen to the CD.

The group's Friday night lineup — which included **We Are Not a Glum Lot's Sam Erickson** on lead and rhythm guitar, *Anthromusicology* producer **Marc Benning** on bass, and the indispensable **Alex Koshak** on drums — contributed to what was surely the tightest and most musically impressive Grant Sabin performance I've seen to date.

The band also unveiled a brand-new Sabin tune written on the nine-string resonator guitar he and his father recently built from scratch. He describes "Circumnavigator" as a "special song waiting for me inside of that nine-string." (Visit his dad's new **Steeltone Guitar Company** page on Facebook if you want one of your own.)

All of which brings us to this coming Thursday's **"A Concert for Sophie,"** which is being presented by the **Haunted Windchimes.** The show will also feature an acoustic set by Sabin, as well as performances by the **J. Miller Band, Joe Johnson,** and the **Changing Colors**. Proceeds from the benefit, which will take place at Pueblo's historic and hugely atmospheric **Union Depot**, will help defray the cost of leukemia treatments for **Sophie Bijou Valdez**.

As noted in previous columns, Sophie is the 3-year-old daughter of **LastLeaf Printing's Mathias Valdez**. Her situation has already brought out the best in the local music community, with benefits at the **Triple Nickel, Black Sheep** and Pueblo's **Phil's Radiator** raising a combined total of $6,100. Thursday's event will also be filmed by **Sparks Bros Media** for a concert DVD, and you can find more info at tinyurl.com/concert4sophie.

Finally, this being the week before Christmas, you'll be happy to know that you can enhance the holiday magic with new "product" from two local artists.

First up is **George Whitesell**, who has a brand-new children's book-and-CD combo called *Santa's Wish.* You can get it, along with his audio-only *Santa Sings Children's Favorites*, at circle504records.com.

Meanwhile, the **Wild Hares** have contributed a predictably perverse tune, "If you Believe," to *Frothing the Nog,* a newly released album on Seattle's **Green Monkey Records** (greenmonkeyrecords.com). The holiday compilation also features artists like the **Young Fresh Fellows**, so you know it's good.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 25

Wednesday 12/19

Buck's, *Greywolf and the Howlers Open Mic (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night, 10 p.m.*
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic)*, 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Fifth Annual Ugly Sweater Party, with the J. Miller Band (country)*, 7 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Ceol Ceili (folk)*, 8 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz)*, 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *West Side Wednesdays, with Brian Parton (Americana)*, 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Twisted Knickers, *Bluegrass Jam with Banjo Bill (bluegrass)*, 7 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Matt Vrba (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Thursday 12/20

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic)*, 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band, 9 p.m.*
Holy Cow Pub & Grill, *Jay-Koh (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world)*, 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee & Tony G (dance), 8 p.m., Blehmish (R&B)*, 8 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Malcolm Marchman Holiday Pianist (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Mike Nelson Band (jazz)*, 7:15 p.m.
Pale Horse, *Ladies Night, feat. DJ Fade (dance)*, 9 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.
Rasta King, *Robby Red Locks & the Reggae Time Machine (world)*, 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz)*, 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (dance)*, 9 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Mad Dogg (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.
Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance)*, 9 p.m.

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Buck's Mountain Saloon & Grill, 116 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 686-1212
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Holy Cow Pub & Grill, 5885 Stetson Hills Blvd., 465-1704
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Keg Lounge, 730 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9531
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
moZaic, 443 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-1800
O'Furry's, 900 E. Fillmore St., 634-3106
Pale Horse Bar and Lounge, 204 N. Union Blvd., 465-2005
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave.,

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Rebecca Tillett

Black P hosts the annual Christmas Food & Toy Drive at the Black Sheep Dec. 22.

BigGigs

Clutch, Texas Hippie Coalition, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 21 • **Krizz Kaliko**, Black Sheep, Dec. 21 • **The Beach Boys**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 28 • **Jimmy Hall, Kate Moss**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Dec. 28 • **Trombone Shorty,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Dec. 28 • **Elephant Revival**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 28-29 • **STS9**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 29-31 • **Lumineers,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Dec. 30-31 • **John Gorka**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 4 • **Father John Misty**, Black Sheep, Jan. 5 • **Justin Bieber, with Carly Rae Jepsen,** Pepsi Center, Denver, Jan. 7 • **Black Veil Brides,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 7 • **Hollywood Undead,** Bluebird Theatre, Denver, Jan. 12 • **Blackalicious,** Marquis Theatre, Denver, Jan. 18 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19 • **Calexico,** Bluebird Theatre, Denver, Jan. 19 • **The Walkmen,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 21 • **Bloc Party,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 22 • **Ben Folds Five,** Ogden Theatre, Denver, Jan. 23 • **Tribal Seeds**, Black Sheep, Jan. 23 • **Sea Wolf**, Black Sheep, Jan. 24 • **Switchback**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 26 • **The Toasters**, Black Sheep, Jan. 28 • **The Overseer**, Black Sheep, Jan. 30 • **Iration**, Black Sheep, Jan. 31 • ***Winter on the Rocks,* with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Major Lazer,** Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Feb. 1 • **Pennywise**, Black Sheep, Feb. 1 • **Kraddy**, Black Sheep, Feb. 2 • **Hatebreed**, Black Sheep, Feb. 5 • **The Growlers**, Black Sheep, Feb. 7 • **Ken Stringfellow,** Moe's, Englewood, Feb. 7 • **Fred Hersch,** Dazzle Jazz, Denver, Feb. 7 & 8 • **El Ten Eleven,** Black Sheep, Feb. 10 • **The Who,** Pepsi Center, Denver, Feb. 12 • **Carrie Underwood,** World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Stone Sour, Papa Roach**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Feb. 17 • **Morrissey,** Buell Theatre, Denver, Feb. 21 • ***Rock & Worship Roadshow,* with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tedashii**, World Arena, Feb. 21 • **Toro y Moi,** Bluebird Theatre, Denver, Feb. 23 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 • **Passion Pit,** 1stBANK Center, Denver, March 1 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **Imagine Dragons**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 23 • **Alt-J,** Bluebird Theatre, Denver, April 3 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Fleetwood Mac,** Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Taylor Swift,** Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 •

Friday 12/21

Adam's, *Ben Pratt (acoustic)*, 9 a.m.

Ancient Mariner, *Big Sky (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Benny's, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Black Sheep, *Krizz Kaliko, Gritty Musick, Slo Pain, 17 Ents (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m., $15-$17.

Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz)*, 7 p.m.

Cleats, *Pet Rock (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Crystola Roadhouse, *Suga' Bear & The Show Time Band (R&B)*, 8 p.m.

Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world)*, 7 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *JV3 (rock/pop)*, 9:30 p.m.

Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

McCabe's Tavern, *End of the World Party, with Danny and the Fried Shrimp (rock/pop)*, 5:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee (dance)*, 8 p.m. *End of the World Sadie Hawkins Dance, with Charlie Milo Trio (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

MoodSwings, *Other Brothers (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.

Motif, *Wayne Wilkinson Trio (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m.

moZaic, *Christmas Jazz Trio (jazz)*, 5 p.m.

O'Furry's, *D Day Invasion (blues)*, 9 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.

Phantom Canyon, *End of the World Party and Empty Stocking Fundraiser, with Mike Nelson Band (blues)*, 7 p.m.

Rawkus, *94.3 KILO End of the World Party, with Try Redemption, Sanguine Addiction (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $5-$7.

Red Martini, *Barry Laluna (jazz)*, 8 p.m.

Rico's, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world)*, 7:30 p.m.

Ritz, *Martini Shot (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Thirsty Parrot, *The End of the World Party, with DJ Karson with a "K" and DJ Manyacal (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Townhouse, *Lethal Lisa (blues)*, 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *Triple Nickel Anniversary Show Night 1: End of the World Party feat. The Gammits, Crowflys, Chris Winters, Murder Hat (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Union Station, *End of the World Party, with Arch Hooks (R&B)*, 8 p.m.

Ute Inn, *The Luke Ellington Blues Band (blues)*, 8 p.m.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Wyatt's, *Alan James (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Zodiac, *End of the World Show, feat. Melting Temple, Drug Flowers, Algodon, Mobdividual (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 12/22

Ancient Mariner, *Unikord, Spatgasm (hardcore)*, 9 p.m.

Benny's, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Black Sheep, *Black Pegasus (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m.

Cleats, *Pet Rock (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz)*, 6 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Neon Sound Festival (rock/pop)*, 9:30 p.m.

Keg Lounge, *Arch Hooks (R&B)*, 10 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *Lincoln with DJ Tony G (dance)*, 9 p.m., *Suga' Bear & The Showtime Band with Lady Shay (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

MoodSwings, *Andrew Duran (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.

Motif, *Julie Bradley and Friends (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.

Pikes Peak Brewing, *Kort McCumber (Americana)*, 7 p.m.

Rawkus, *R&B Holiday Extravaganza, feat. Ryan Toby (R&B)*, 8 p.m.

Rico's, *New Vintage Jazz (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m.

Ritz, *Martini Shot (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Silver Tongue Devil, *James and the Devil (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Sunshine Studios, *Christine Hawkins-Heiresy, Marilyn Clark, Empire City (rock/pop)*, 6:30 p.m., $8.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Thirsty Parrot, *Ugly Sweater Party, with DJ Karson with a "K" and DJ Manyacal (dance)*, 8 p.m.

Townhouse, *40 oz. Freedom Fighters (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *Triple Nickel Anniversary Show Night 2 feat. No Tide, The Great Hotel Fire, Robbie D (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Zodiac, *Headhum, Still Valley, Cult of the Lost Cause (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Sunday 12/23

Ancient Mariner, *Ancient Mariner X-Mas Party with the Storys (folk)*, 5 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world)*, 3 p.m.

Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop)*, 3 p.m.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.

Urban Steam, *Acoustic Open Mic (acoustic)*, 1 p.m.

Zodiac, *Soul Sessions III, hosted by Andrew Wilson (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

Monday 12/24

SouthSide Johnny's, *Arch Hooks (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone 7 p.m.*

Tuesday 12/25

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic)*, 6:30 p.m.

Ritz, *DJ Serge (hip-hop)*, 8 p.m.

577-5773

Phantom Canyon Brewing Co., 2 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 635-2800

Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098

Rasta King Seafood Bar and Grill, 675 S. Circle Drive, 344-4447

Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000

Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522

Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927

Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549

Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484

The Silver Tongue Devil Saloon, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 684-2555

The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815

Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222

SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487

Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921

Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772

Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094

Thirsty's Tavern, 2028 Sheldon Ave., 444-8515

Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566

Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085

Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555

Twisted Knickers Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 633-1400

Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168

Urban Steam Coffee Bar, 1025 S. Sierra Madre St., 473-7832

Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465

V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599

Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100

Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

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AudioFile

Kick out the jams

Smooth Money Gesture keeps on truckin'

By Chris Parker

Rocky Mountain sigh: Smooth Money Gesture left Alaska for the Nederland jam band scene.

The four members of Smooth Money Gesture definitely understand the value of the journey over the destination. They are, after all, a jam band, blending Dead-icated folk jams, spacey prog excursions and jazzy dub/worldbeat rhythms. The grooves — like the road — extend toward the horizon line, fueled by the restless creativity of the Diminico brothers Doug and Dan.

The Nederland group, which made its recording debut with last year's *The Grand Scubian: Evolution*, moved from Alaska to Colorado back in 2005 after growing tired of touring the towns and cities along the Alaska coastline. "It's like a third of the U.S.," says bassist/vocalist Doug Diminico. "You drive a lot to get to different places, but you're always in the same state."

Ultimately, the sense of isolation lost its charm. "We had a lot of fun playing up there, but we wanted to do it more throughout the entire country, which is not possible from there."

Doug remembered passing through Nederland when he was 19 and liking it. The town had the advantage of being "pretty rural but with quick access to Denver and Boulder," as well as highways to the coasts. Still, it was something of a shot in the dark. "We didn't know a soul," he recalls.

After going through a number of drummers and percussionists, the brothers hooked up with Nederland native Cody Wales, whose family lineage (his father drummed in Leftover Salmon) and his own résumé (he studied under Galactic's Stanton Moore and jazz session whiz Christian Teele) made him the perfect addition. Wales brought in keyboardist/vocalist Pete Goldberg, and the lineup was complete.

The group recorded *Grand Scubian* at Sugarloaf's Altitude Recording Studio with producer Chris Smith, but is now experimenting with a more DIY approach. "I saw a lot of the same procedures being done in the studio that I would've done myself at home," says Doug. "It opened my eyes."

Currently, Smooth Money Gesture is recording in brother Dan's basement, where through slow accumulation they've built up a studio setup that gives them the luxury of working at their own pace.

"We have a lot of time to send more stuff through, if we want to go off on a musical tangent," Doug says. "I don't have a $10,000 microphone, but I don't have a $10 microphone either. Somewhere in-between."

They also converted an airport shuttle bus into a touring vehicle, adding bunks and a stove, which allows them to conserve funds on tour. And last year they further updated it, so it could run on vegetable grease.

"When the temperature is right for us to be collecting used waste grease, we can travel pretty much for free," he says. "Although we've had some issues with fuel pumps and stuff this year that has left us dead in the water on the side of the road several times. So we're going to be more cautious in the future."

Currently, the plan is to release new music in the spring — hopefully a full album — and then it's off to the summer festival circuit that's the lifeblood of any good jam band.

"We just keep doing what we do," says Doug. "We make friends along the way, and meet people willing to help us go a little further each time."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Smooth Money Gesture

Wednesday, Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Front Range Barbeque,
2330 W. Colorado Ave.

Free; frbbq.com, 632-2596.

SoundAdvice

GREEN DAY
¡TRÉ!

THE ROLLING STONES
GRRR!

Green Day
¡Tré!
Warner/Reprise

File next to: Bad Religion, blink-182

¡Tré! is the most "rock" record of Green Day's 2012 trilogy, as it pushes aside the punkish leanings of *¡Uno!* and the garage brashness of *¡Dos!* for more straight-ahead arena/radio-friendly fare. The opening tracks make that shift immediately clear. The opening power ballad "Brutal Love" is followed by "Missing You," which adds a little punk drive to the big guitars and choruses, as well as the larger-than-life "8th Avenue Serenade." *¡Tré!* contains some strong material — the self-referential "X-Kid," the hook-filled "Sex, Drugs & Violence," and the anthemic "Dirty Rotten Bastards"— but there's some filler here as well. Ultimately, it's *¡Dos!* that stands out as the best of the trilogy, followed by *¡Uno!*, with *¡Tré!* trailing behind. That doesn't mean *¡Tré!* is awful; more just OK. — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***

Alicia Keys
Girl on Fire
RCA

File next to: Diana Ross, Beyoncé

Now married and a mother, Alicia Keys sings optimistically about a "Brand New Me" and a "New Day" on *Girl on Fire.* But the better news is that Keys' fifth album isn't really all that new. Once again, she plays to her strengths — beautifully sung ballads and uplifting anthems done with class, maturity and assurance. Among the highlights of this satisfying effort are the Motown sound of the Bruno Mars collaboration "Tears Always Win," the tender gospel of "Not Even the King," and the guest appearances by Maxwell and Gary Clark on "Fire We Make." While there was really no need to bring Nicki Minaj along on the title cut, Keys pairs well with most of her guests, right down to her little boy, Egypt, who turns up on the end of "When It's All Over." — ***L. Kent Wolgamott***

The Rolling Stones
GRRR! Greatest Hits
ABKCO/Interscope

File next to: Faces, Muddy Waters

The Stones are no strangers to greatest hits packages, having already released about two dozen, as well as four separate box sets. What *GRRR!* does is to put 48 of the best Rolling Stones songs, plus two new tracks, into a 50-year anniversary collection that covers the band's catalog with more depth than most greatest hits albums. There are early covers like "Little Red Rooster" and "Not Fade Away," as well as choice album cuts like "She's A Rainbow," "Street Fighting Man" and "Waiting on a Friend." Plus it doesn't hurt to have the two new songs — "Doom and Gloom" and "One More Shot" — which are both solid, if rather stereotypical, Stones tunes. As for the rest of the songs, it's pretty much one classic after another from one of rock's truly iconic bands. — ***Alan Sculley***

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Christmas Worship Guide

Sales Manager

As our sales, print and web readership have grown due to both internal growth as well as recent acquisitions, we now need an inspiring, systematic, experienced hands-on leader to oversee all revenue generation at the *Colorado Springs Independent*. See **Employment section** or csindy.com/coloradosprings/jobopenings/page for full details.

EOE

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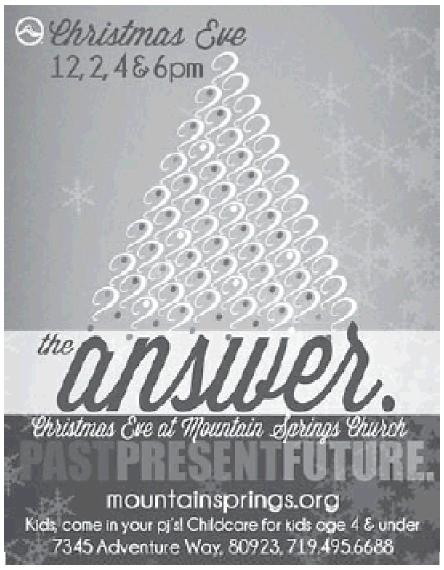
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
6:30 pm, December 24th
"Christ is the Light of the world"

Vista Grande Community Church
Everyone Welcome. Open & Affirming
5460 N. Union Blvd. 599-3057 vgcc.org



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12, 2, 4 & 6pm

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES
Sunday, December 23 • 9 & 11:15 am
Monday, December 24 • 1, 3, 5 & 7 pm

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Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 2012

Children & Family Celebration
10:00 am • Theatre

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 pm • Sanctuary
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Come join us in Celebration of the Birth of Our Savior.

Christmas Eve Services:

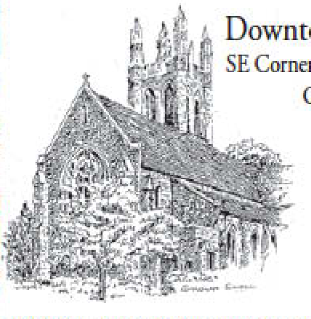
Children's Pageant & Eucharist - 4:30 pm

Candlelight Choral Eucharist Services -
7:00 pm, Music starting at **6:30,** Rite II
11:00 pm, Music starting at **10:30,** Rite I

Both candlelight services will feature Mozart's Missa Brevis in D Major with string orchestra; anthems by Lindley, Willcocks and Adelmann; plus traditional hymns and carols.

Christmas Day Service:

10:00 am - Eucharist with Carols



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Nativity stained glass window in The Windows of Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, *now on sale at Grace Episcopal. Nicole Paulson photographer.*

WORSHIP SERVICES

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Graham Baird,
Senior Pastor

Services of Worship
Nevada at Bijou

Sunday, December 23
Services: 8:20, 9:45 and 11:10 a.m.
Christmas Eve Service: 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Monday, December 24
Services: 10:30 a.m.;
2, 3:30, 5, 7, 8:30 and 10:45 p.m.

884-6100

www.first-pres.org

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Dec. 23; *"What Love Looks Like"*
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6pm; Service of Lessons & Carols
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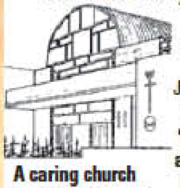

December 23rd
"Jesus is the light of the world"
John 8:12, 12:35-36, 12:44-46

Dec. 24th; 6:30pm
"Christ is born in us. You are the light of the world"
Luke 2:1-20, John 8:12, Matt 5:14-16, 1 John 4:7

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1-5 Colorado You Got Talent
1-5 Jake Loggins Band (evening)
1-10 Thin Air Jazz - CD Release
1-11 Starburn 60's Rock Free Concert
1-12 Susan Rissman and Tribe
1-16 Chuck Pyle - Songwriters Circle
1-18 Whiskey Fingers Dance Party
1-19 Nina Story and Wendy Woo
1-26 Switchback / Celtic
1-30/31 Colorado Springs Conservatory You're A Good Man Charlie Brown
2-1 Angler's Covey - Fly Fishing Film Tour 2013
2-8 Tribe - Mardi Gras Party
2-9 Dotsero Valentine's Party
2-16 Yesterday- Beatles Tribute
1-17 Michael Johnson Bluer Than Blue
2-22 Geoff Harris CD Release
2-23 ZOSO- Led Zeppelin Tribute

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RAPTURE MEETS yikes! RAYON
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Listings

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

ArtEvents

Art in Storefronts, four installations at local empty storefronts: "Body Knowing Space Part 2" by Sarah Velez at 117 E. Bijou St.; "The Storefront Project" by Mary Vandezande at 121 E. Bijou St.; "Revival" by Amy Seltzer at 130 E. Pikes Peak Ave.; and "I Live in COS" by Austin Buck at 326 N. Tejon St. peakradar.com.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, tinyurl.com/cs6lo26.

PICK **EndTime@blacKiowa,** a winter solstice art event featuring apocalyptic works by local artists and a live play reading beginning at 8 p.m. Fri., Dec. 21, 7 p.m. The blacKiowa Gallery, 745 E. Kiowa St., 963-3127.

Third Friday Art Walk in Manitou Springs, an evening of art receptions, openings and other activities at businesses including: Black Cat Books, safron of Manitou, Green Horse Gallery, Swirl Wine Emporium, the Business of Art Center and more. Third Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m.; through Dec. 21. facebook.com/3rdFridayArtWalkManitou.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *The Bridge Market*, the group's "cash-and-carry" exhibit of small works, jewelry, pots and more. In the Commons Gallery, find photographs by Michael Cellan and Peter Marchand in *Passing Thru Time and Space*. Through Dec. 22.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Handmade Holiday*, a show and sale of hand-crafted artwork and crafts from locals, with live music, warm beverages and cookies and other holiday entertainment. Saturdays, Sundays; through Dec. 25. *The Artist's Studio*, an exhibit centering on "Innovation, Ideas, Methods and Materials From Fine Art Adult Educators," featuring works from instructors at local studios, community colleges, universities, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Business of Art Center. Through Jan. 19. BAC Annual Holiday Show, a wide selection of works from BAC regulars in ceramics, painting, glass, prints and mixed media. Through Jan. 19. *Dave Wyzenbeek: Recent Works*, an exploration of faith, self, and the subconscious in monotypes and drawings from the Denver artist. Through Jan. 19.

Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 475-6110. *Faculty Exhibition*, featuring two- and three-dimensional works from the arts faculty of Cheyenne Mountain School District 12. Through Dec. 21.

Jeff Kallaus

PICK **Marmalade at Smokebrush,** 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Chriszaihamankus*, a group celebration of the season, featuring works from Kat and Bob Tudor, Don Goede, Jeff Kallaus, Justin Kovach and others. Through Dec. 28.

Woodland Park Art Walk, an evening of art receptions, demonstrations and other activities at a dozen Woodland Park art galleries including the Seven Arrows Gallery, the Woodland Park Arts Alliance and others. Third Friday of every month, 4-7 p.m. 302-2282, woodlandparkarts.com.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Under the Influence*, an exhibition of the watercolor and mixed-media work of Carol Naylor, Gayle Higgins and Jan Hunt-Dawson. Through Dec. 31.

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon St., 633-7717, asuuc.net. *Great Hall Art Display*, a collection of paintings by local artist Lois Cunliffe available for viewing and purchase on weekday mornings. Enter through ramp door at rear of church. Through Jan. 17.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Commonwheel Artists Co-op Annual Holiday Market*, a show and sale of gift-able artwork by over 35 Colorado artists. Through Jan. 6.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Pikes Peak Watercolor Society*, an exhibition of works from the local organization. Through Jan. 8.

Cottonwood on Tejon, 214½ N. Tejon St., cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Holiday Boutique*, an art show and sale featuring pieces from Colorado artists, all under $100.

Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org. *A Cup & Bowl*

Your FOX21 five-day forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
❄	☀	☀	☀	☀
23/5	40/19	51/20	49/18	45/20

Christmas, an exhibition of work from Linda Cates, Kuky Harrington and Maria Hughes.

Downtown Studio Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College, 100 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 502-4040, laura.ben-amots@ppcc.edu, ppcc.edu/departments/art/ppcc-art-gallery. *Symphony*, the winter student exhibition from the art department of Pikes Peak Community College. Through Feb. 7.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., gallery-113.com. *Art Gift Show*, a show and sale of hand-crafted works, including jewelry, photographs, prints, paintings and more. Through Dec. 25.

Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com. *Colorado Artists*, a selection of new works from local artists. Through Dec. 31.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Fifth Annual Small Works Show*, a show and sale of artwork no larger than 24 inches in every dimension, hung ceiling to floor in both the Modbo and S.P.Q.R. Through Jan. 4.

Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333, ppld.org. *In Our Own Backyard: Remembering Historic Fires of the Pikes Peak Region*, an exhibition of photography looking at various destructive fires in the area. Find photos from Eric Wulfsberg, Tracey Goodale, Dan Shelley, and Warren and Linda Pearce, who lost their home in the Waldo Canyon Fire. Through Aug. 31.

Safron of Manitou Springs, 720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5153. *Ever Afters?*, an exhibition of art by K8e Orr inspired by German folktales. Through Jan. 18.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Own Your Own Art Show & Sale*, Sangre's annual art bonanza, with walls filled top to bottom with reasonably priced artwork for the holidays. Through Dec. 29.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Momentum*, a solo show of new abstract paintings focused on meditative spaces, as well as a series "inspired by walking meditation labyrinths." Through Dec. 31.

Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., aafcsstudent@gmail.com, rmpbs.org/timgillcenter. *The Art of Design*, an exhibition of work from the local student chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Through Jan. 31.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *TLCA Resident Artists Exhibition*. Through Jan. 5.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest*. *Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op seeks artists to bring their seconds for its upcoming *Pots by the Pound* show and sale. Intake will be held Wed., Jan. 9 and Thurs., Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It also seeks a 3-D artist or potter to show in the gallery. Those who have applied before and been denied are encouraged to reapply. Call or go online for information and requirements. Deadline Jan. 14. Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts seeks submissions for its upcoming Cajun- and Carnival Mardi Gras-themed art show opening Jan. 25. Intake Jan. 17-18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $10 per piece submitted; $50 prize for best in show. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/cajun-and-carnival.

Pikes Peak Opera League seeks applicants for its annual Young Voice Competition, which rewards the talent of singers age 16-19 in El Paso County with cash prizes and the chance to attend a master class. Entry deadline Feb. 8; visit website for application details. 579-6999, pikespeakoperaleague.org.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts seeks entries for its January exhibition entitled *From the Earth: Fine Art in Wood and Clay*. Entries due by Dec. 21. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org.

Concerts

Showcase at Studio Bee, featuring Mistura Bela, John Austin and Foster. Wed., Dec. 19, 6:45 p.m. Free. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, Natalie@BlackCatBooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Springs Creative Photography Group, a weekly meet-up of a photography group "that is social, educational and community based. We welcome members of all skill levels." Seeking new members for the main group, and a separate spinoff for teens. See website for details. 232-5697, meetup.com/creative-photography.

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

Deaf Chat, a chance to meet and greet others in the deaf community. Third Friday of every month, 3-6 p.m. Colorado Springs Independence Center, 729 S. Tejon St., 471-8181, csicindliving.org.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

EntSpirational Speakers Toastmasters Club, a public-speaking and leadership club meeting at 7350 Campus Drive. First and third Wednesday of every month, 12:05 p.m. entspirational.toastmastersclubs.org.

Networking Groups, Pikes Peak Job Search Networking Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

No-Nuts Moms Group of Colorado Springs, a peanut- and tree-nut-free playgroup for all ages, who can participate in indoor and outdoor play dates. Contact the group for specific times and dates. Free. tinyurl.com/nonutsmoms.

Passage Youth Group, a new LGBT young adult group. Meetings include discussions, films and more. Third Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Inside/Out Youth Services, 235 S. Nevada Ave., 328-1056, insideoutys.org.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Amputee Connection Monthly Support Group Meeting, meet others with limb loss for peer support, education, recreational resources and more. Third Wednesday of every month, 5-6:30 p.m. TGI Friday's, 7061 Commerce Center Drive, 599-4135, ppaccs.com.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Informal gatherings open to all ages and skill levels. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

Dance Parties&Classes

Country-Western Dance Party, easy line dances, cowboy cha-chas, two-steps and square dances with the help of instructors. No partner or experience required. Come at 7 p.m. for new-dancer instructions. Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $1-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

Live Free-form Dance/Music, world music with dancing. Sat., Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m. $5 donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

NVision Dance Party, a celebration and dance party. $10. NVision Dance, 750 Garden of the Gods Road, 268-6828, nvisiondance.com.

Scottish Country Dance, held on the lower level. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. $5, first class free. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 310-1784, internationaldanceclub.org.

Senior +55 Dance, weekly dances with music from the '40s, '50s and '60s. Tuesdays, 6-10:30

Happy Holidays from the Hatch Cover
IT'S A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE!
DID YOU KNOW THE HATCH SERVES DINNER ON CHRISTMAS EVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT?
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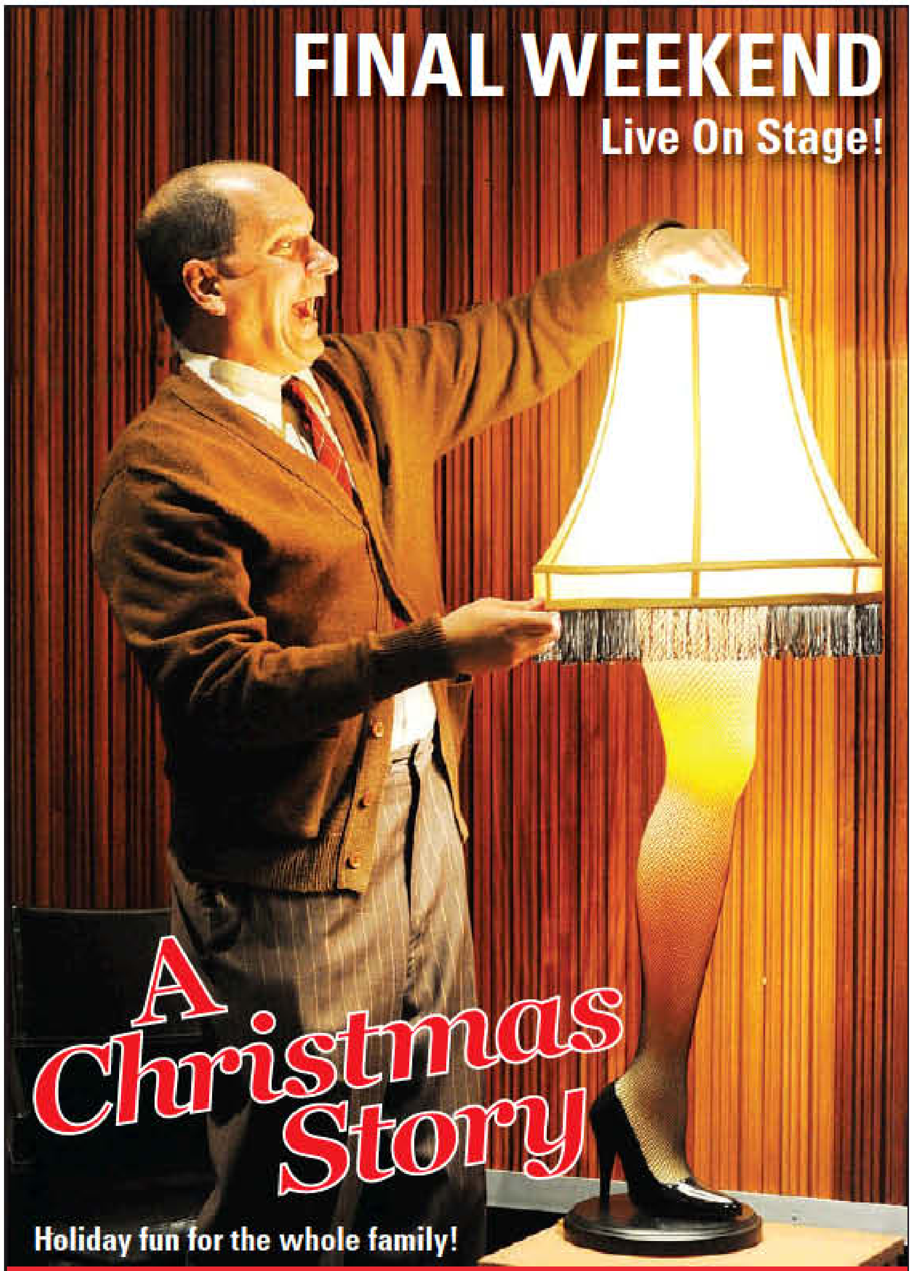
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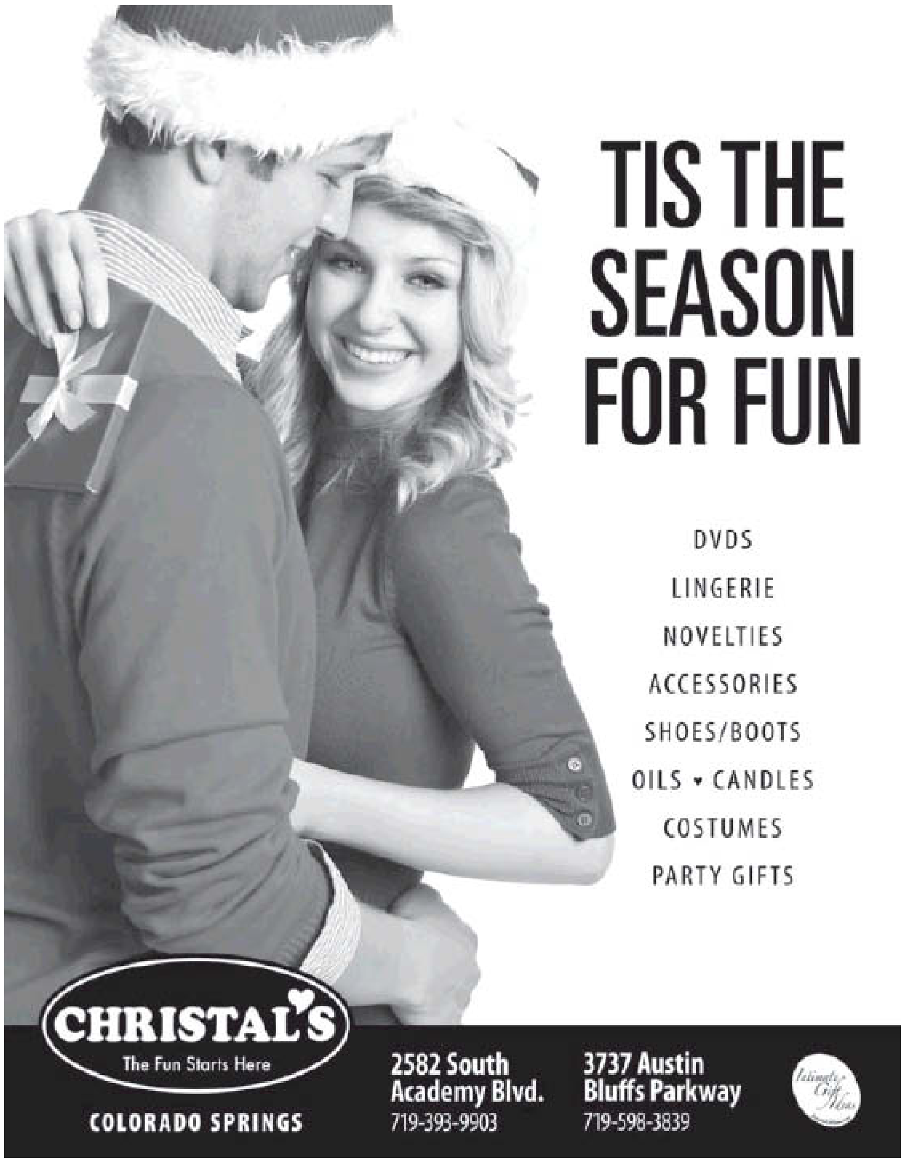
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p.m. $3 per person (or $5 for two). Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927, treaone.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

Weekly Latin Night at Fujiyama, learn a variety of Zumba-inspired Latin dances, including merengue, reggaeton and salsa. Thursdays, 8:30-10 p.m. $3. Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 520-1201, springssalsa.com.

PICK **Zombie Apocalyse End of World Party,** a themed party with costume contest, prizes, drink specials and live music from Charlie Milo Trio and DeeJayBee. Fri., Dec. 21, 9 p.m. Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 649-5953.

DancePerformances

Soul Mechanics, a "public jam session" from the local break-dancing crew. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance.org.

Food&Drink

"Holiday Classic Feast," a class with chef Amy Pontius focusing on European classics like beef Wellington. Wed., Dec. 19, 6-8 p.m. $30. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Old Colorado City Wine-Bar Tour, a two-block tour of six OCC venues and six wines paired with food. Thursdays, 5 p.m.; through Dec. 27. $48. shopoldcoloradocity.com.

GetInvolved

Annual CSPD Christmas Toy Drive, a drive for new, unwrapped toys for children, and gifts for teens 13 and up. Drop-offs located at any Colorado Springs Police Department station for donation to two local charities that give gifts to disadvantaged children. Christmas Unlimited needs toys, while Teens with Promise needs art supplies, clothing, gift cards and electronics. Through Dec. 25. teenswithpromise.com.

So You Want to Serve on City Council?, a chance to hear the ins and outs of the job from past and present Colorado Springs Councilors including John Hazlehurst, Jan Martin, Mary Ellen McNally and Richard Skorman, as well as City Clerk Sarah Johnson. Sponsored by Citizens Project and the *Independent.* Wed., Dec. 19, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 520-9899, kristy@citizensproject.org, ppld.org.

Health&Healing

Community Flu Clinic, a free influenza vaccination opportunity for underinsured community members above age 4, courtesy of Penrose-St. Francis Health Services and Walgreens. Supplies limited. Thurs., Dec. 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mountain Springs Church, 7345 Adventure Way, 776-5250, penrosestfrancis.org.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

New Era New You, a two-day expo with meditations, aura and chakra readings, astrology and more. Dec. 21-22. Celebration Conscious Living Store, 2209 W. Colorado Ave., 634-1855, celebrationstore.com.

Holiday

100 for $100, a holiday art show featuring original works by Tracy Miller, Coni Grant, Patti Filler, Laura Reilly and more. Also held in Fare Bella. Through Dec. 31. Tracy Miller Studio Gallery, 16 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 650-0827, tracymillerfineart.com.

15th Annual Holiday Headframe Lighting, a true frontier holiday tradition featuring the 1890s-vintage headframes of the mines around Cripple Creek and Victor all lit up now through New Year's. Take a self-guided tour or visit either of the historic towns for a variety of seasonal activities — visit the website for tour map or e-mail for more information. Weekend nights only, weather permitting. Through Dec. 31. 689-2675, stcfg@victorcolorado.com, victorcolorado.com.

PICK ***A Christmas Story,*** a live performance of the holiday film classic. Through Dec. 23. $15-$37. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, SaGaJi Theater, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org.

Bear Creek Nature Explorers: The Gingerbread Man, a nature hike for kids age 4-5 followed by hands-on activities, crafts and stories. Reservation required. Thurs., Dec. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. $4. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Bob Telmossé Christmas Giveaway, donate new toys, new or used bikes (kids' especially needed), canned veggies and fruit, turkeys, hams, coats, gloves and hats to this annual drive that helps bring the holidays to needy Pikes Peak region families. This year's giveaway will be held Dec. 21, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Freedom Financial Services Expo Center. Volunteers are also needed to sort donations. Go online for drop-off information and more. Donations accepted through Dec. 20. 646-0896, santa-bob.org.

A Christmas Carol, a puppet production of the classic Dickens tale, featuring all hand-made marionettes. Through Dec. 31. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

Christmas Madrigal Dinner, a five-course meal with medieval holiday music, entertainment and dancing. Held Thursdays through Saturdays; reservations required. Through Dec. 22. $99. Glen Eyrie Conference Center, 3820 N. 30th St.

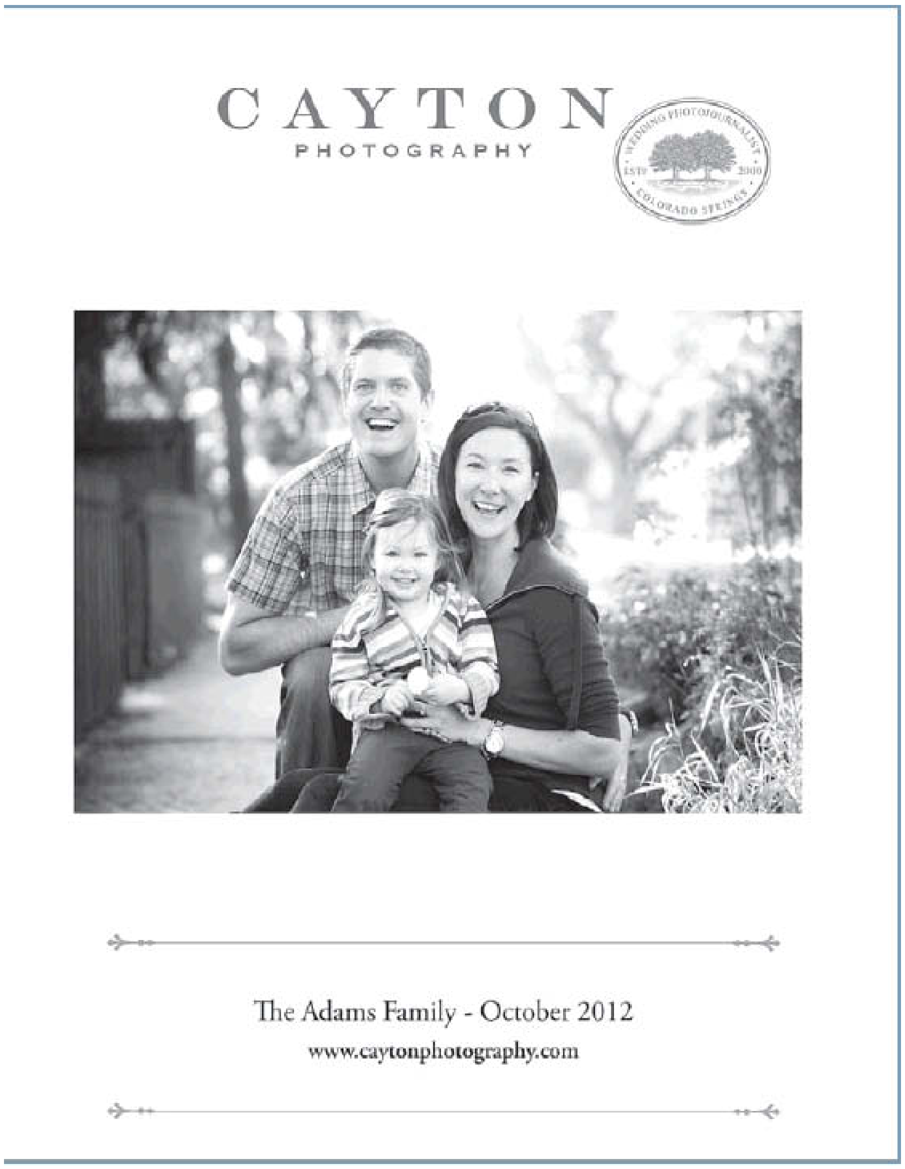
The Christmas Mouse on Holiday, a new story in the Christmas Mouse series. Through Dec. 22. $10.50. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Christmas Symphony, seasonal favorites performed by the Colorado Springs Philharmonic and the Colorado Springs Chorale with Thomas Wilson conducting. Sun., Dec. 23, 2:30 p.m. $19-$59. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, csphilharmonic.org.

Electric Safari, a chance to appreciate the 1 million lights spread across the zoo, including over 40 animated sculptures. Zookeepers will be available, as well as select exhibits. Through Jan. 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, 633-9925, cmzoo.org.

Home for the Holidays, a Colorado Springs Conservatory alumni concert, also celebrating the launch of CSC alum and Broadway star Josh Franklin's new CD. Wed., Dec. 19, 7 p.m. The

PICK ***A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol,*** a production of this original play that debuted at the Butte in 2002. The show will be followed by a Christmas olio. Through Dec. 30. $8.25-$13.25. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.



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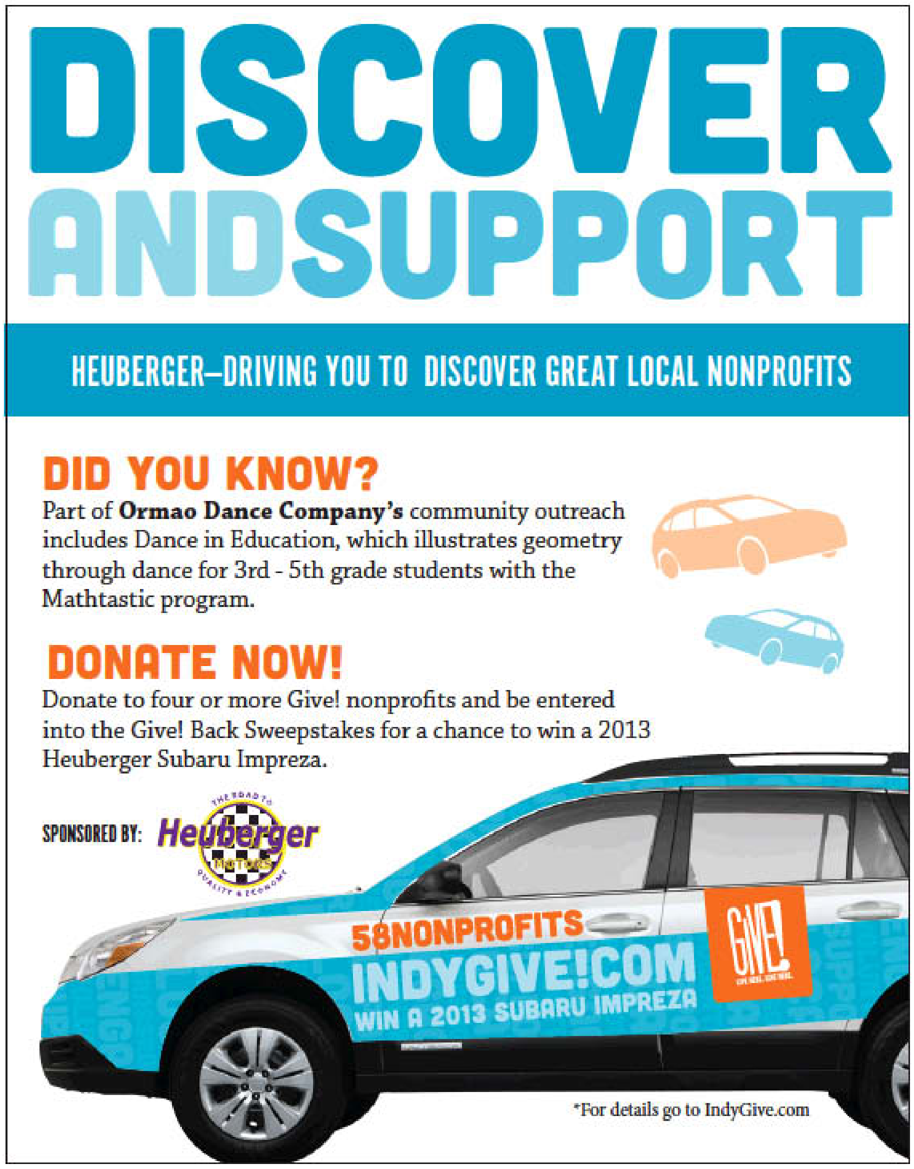
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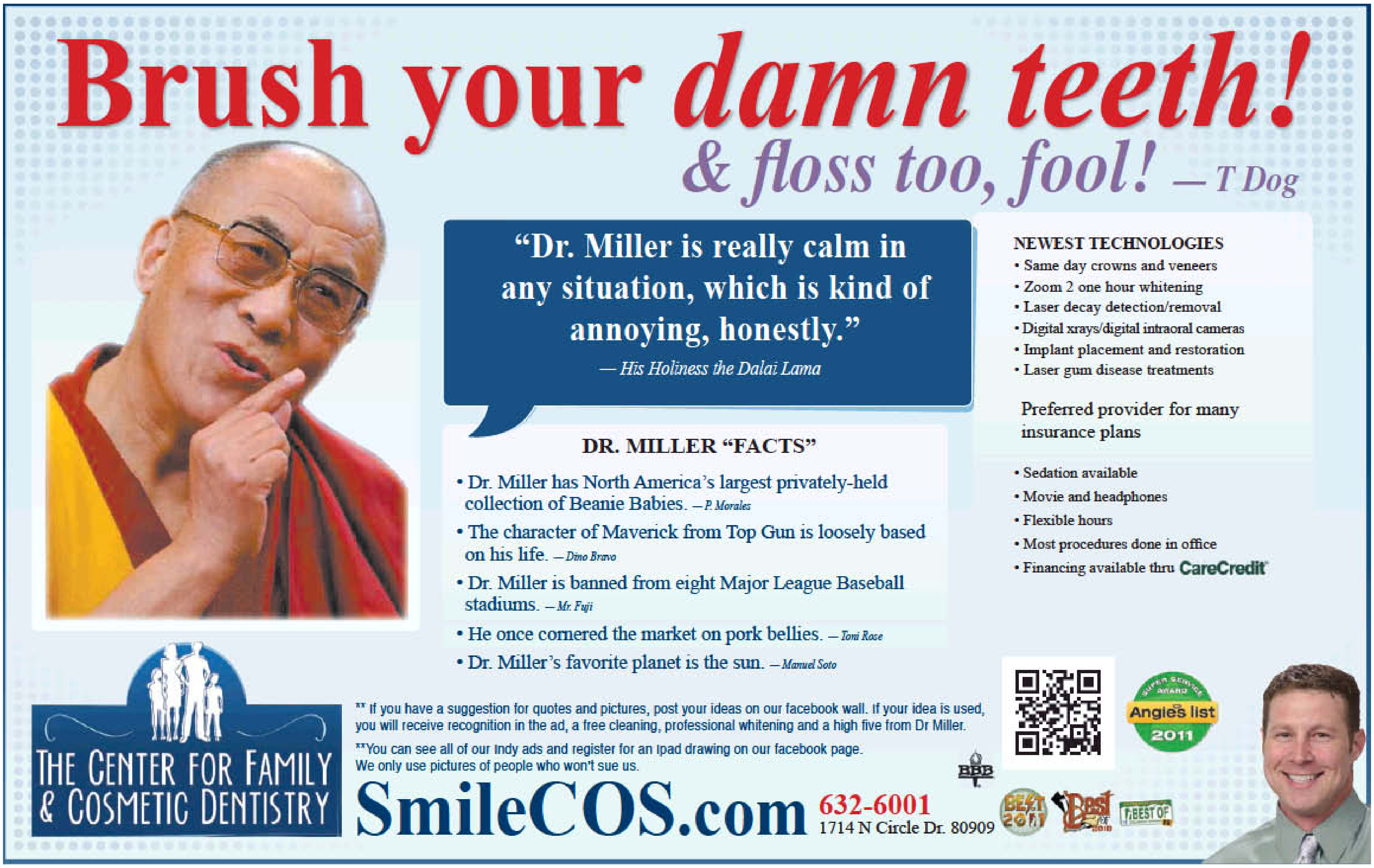
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The Madrigal Singers of Glen Eyrie, a performance of holiday music from the group. Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Terra Verde, 208 N. Tejon St., 444-8621, terraverdestyle.com.

New Beginnings, a change-of-consciousness party to celebrate this once-in-25,800-years celestial event, featuring drumming circles, a crystal bowl concert, energy healers, guided meditation circles, local art and free chair massages. Gain admission by showing your receipt for a $10 or greater donation to Indy Give! Thurs., Dec. 20, 6-9 p.m. $10. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 573-7447, thebac.org.

Stephanie Pauline CD Release Party, a potluck and concert of traditional carols and original songs from Stephanie Pauline to celebrate the release of *More Than a Story*. Fri., Dec. 21, 6 p.m. Community Church of the Rockies, 4777 N. Academy Blvd.

Wild Winter Christmas Celebration, a chance to meet and greet one of Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center's ambassador wolves and enjoy breakfast burritos with the wolves. Free for kids 12 and under. RSVP recommended. Sun., Dec. 23, 9-10 a.m. $25. Colorado Wolf & Wildlife Center, 4729 Twin Rocks Road, Divide, 719/687-9742, wolfeducation.org.

Winter Solstice Ceremony, a chance to celebrate the longest night of the year with quiet introspection and community. Fri., Dec. 21, 7 p.m. Center for Powerful Living, 635 Southpointe Court, #220, 661-2741, centerforpowerfulliving.com/events/winter-solstice.

Yule Love It Downtown, a holiday art and shopping crawl through Pueblo's Creative Corridor. Features live music, Riverwalk Boat Rides and painting and photography demonstrations as well as the work of local artists and artisans. Visit website for full list of events. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Downtown Pueblo, 719/242-6652, PuebloPAG.org.

Lectures&Learning

"INNER"tainment, a humor-filled, heartful brown bag lunch presentation by self-alignment coach Marlene Milner on the topic of "YOU are your greatest gift!" Wed., Dec. 19, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. $10. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center classes, offering courses on topics such as: applying for federal jobs, preparing for job interviews, building a better résumé and more. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

Senior Resource Development Agency Classes, registering now for classes and sessions including line dancing, computer skills, painting, quilting and more. See the online calendar for current events. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

Small Business Development Center classes, offering courses on topics such as: choosing the right business structure, the legalities of joint ventures, preparing taxes, common legal issues with small businesses and more. Small Business Development Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3844, cssbdc.org.

LiteraryEvents

Covered Treasures Bookstore Book Signing, a meet-and-greet with Kris Abel-Helwig, author of the *I Love You* children's series. Fri., Dec. 21, 10 a.m.-noon. Covered Treasures Bookstore, 105 Second St., Monument, 481-2665, CovrdTreas@aol.com.

Museums&Attractions

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars With NASA*, an exhibit exploring the events leading up to the 1969 moon landing and the role Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters played in the Apollo 10 launch and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. Schultz was also once a Springs resident, which will be another part of the show. Through April 20.

The Money Museum, 818 N. Cascade Ave., 632-2646, money.org. *History of Money*, an exhibition on the different forms, shapes and uses of money over the past 10,000 years.

National Museum of World War II Aviation, 755 Aviation Way, 637-7559, worldwarIIaviation.org. Tours of the new museum featuring aircraft from the WWII era, including a P47D Thunderbolt, TBM Avenger as well as aircraft undergoing restoration, such as the P38 Lightning. The museum is open only three days a week currently, and offers docent-led tours Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. $5-$10, free for WWII generation.

2012 Holiday Extravaganza Revue, a fun-filled, family-friendly musical and dramatic smorgasbord with Christmas as the theme and old-fashioned stagecraft as the vehicle. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; through Dec. 22. $9.50-29.50. Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5104, pikes-peak.com/attraction/15.aspx.

Sports&Recreation

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

The Joy Ride, a weekly bicycle ride that begins at the tavern, travels three to six miles along a downtown route and ends up back at McCabe's for beer specials. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, upadowna.com.

Life Time Academy Open House, a chance to check out employment opportunities in the health and fitness industry. Through Dec. 19. Free. Life Time Fitness, 4410 Royal Pine Drive, 651/265-9914, ltacademy.net.

Salsa Brava Nacho Ordinary Run Club, a 5K run through the neighborhood with drink specials and menu items just for club members. Freebies include a free T-shirt after five runs, a free appetizer after 10 runs and a free entrée after 20 runs. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava

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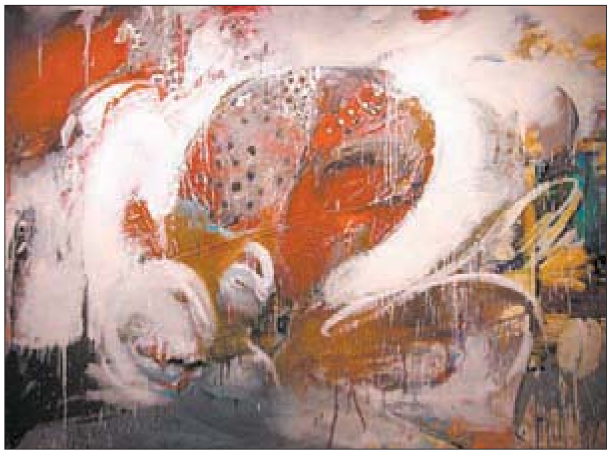

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *A Mural in the Making*, a look at the process — through drawings, pictures, video and more — that two artists, Eric Bransby and Trevor Thomas, went through to create the museum's new mural. Through Jan. 6. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop*, a career-spanning exhibition of the works of longtime Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan. 20.

Fresh Mexican Grill - Briar Village, 9420 Briar Village Point, 955-6650. Also held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Village Center, 802 Village Center Drive, 266-9244, salsabravaonline.com.

SpecialEvents

Traditional Winter Solstice C'anupa Ceremony, a peace pipe ceremony hosted by the White Horse Circle of the World Council of Elders. With a potluck dinner to follow. Fri., Dec. 21, 4 p.m. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Spirituality

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation and Teachings, a session on the Four Noble Truths with Venerable Gyaltän Sangpo. Wed., Dec. 19, 7-8:30 p.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 447-9880, tsling.org.

Weekly Spiritual Gathering, weekly, non-religious meet-ups with "laughter, song and great people." RSVP for more information. Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. By donation. 433-9625, kenpeacecarroll@gmail.com.

Stage

Moonlight & Magnolias, a comedy set during the filming of *Gone With the Wind* by the Impossible Players. Through Dec. 22. Impossible Playhouse, 1201 N. Main St., Pueblo, 719/542-6969, impossibleplayers.org.

WYNOT Radio Theatre: It Came Upon a Midnight Deadly, a holiday performance from the WYNOT Radio Theatre troupe. Through Dec. 30. $15. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Music Room, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org.

You Can't Take It With You, a performance by TheatreWorks of George Kaufman's comedic play about family tension, which won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Through Dec. 23. $35, $15 for kids under 16. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado seeks volunteers to help out Mondays through Saturdays. It's also seeking "lead volunteers" who can commit to one or two days a week. Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, 2605 Preamble Point, 434-5724, careandshare.org.

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. Training provided. CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, 701 S. Cascade Ave., 447-9898, casappr.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed), healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. Please call 265-1109 for more.

Marian House needs volunteer drivers to help pick up commodities at various stops throughout the Springs two to three hours per week. Call Theo Reiter at 866-6549 for more. Marian House, 14 W. Bijou St., 475-2347, ccharitiescs.org.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist or pet therapist, or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Peak Area Council of Governments seeks volunteers with good clerical and customer-service skills to help seniors improve their independence and quality of life by working in the Senior Information and Assistance Center (SIAC). Time commitment: 4-7 hours per week. Ongoing. 471-7080, jwilkinson@ppacg.org.

(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry is seeking donations of pet food, and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talk to business sponsors and contact local veterinary offices. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

PPRTA Board of Directors seeks a volunteer to serve as an at-large representative on its Citizen Advisory Committee, which addresses Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority budgets, contracts and project implementation. Applicants may submit letter and résumé via e-mail or post to PPACG (15 S. 7th St.) attn: Rick Sonnenburg. Deadline Jan. 7. 471-7080 ext. 138, rsonnenburg@ppacg.org.

SolAmor Hospice seeks volunteers to provide pet therapy to its terminally ill patients. 226-0091, solamorhospice.com.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) seeks volunteers for its food pantry and other programs for the military community. Call or e-mail for more info. 229-8280, dave@lotuscenterco.org.

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Three men stole items from a property in Moultonborough, N.H., after advertising them as giveaways on Craigslist even before they were stolen. Police believe the posts were meant to provide an alibi, so they could claim they were merely responding to the advertised offer of free items. "It is very bold, especially when you put that out on the Internet, and others are viewing it at the same time, probably going to show up as well," Detective Stephen Kessler said. After determining the property owner had no intention of giving the items away, police staked out the address and nabbed the suspects in the act. (Manchester's WMUR-TV)

Humanity's follies

Following a Human Rights Watch report that killer robots could be deployed on battlefields within 20 years, the Department of Defense issued a directive stating that any future semi-autonomous weapons systems "must be designed such that, in the event of degraded or lost communication, the system does not autonomously select and engage individual targets or specific target groups that haven't been previously selected by an authorized human operator." The policy specifically exempts non-killing military robots, such as surveillance drones. (Britain's *Daily Mail*)

U.S. military drones overseas are crashing with increasing frequency, including at civilian airports. Air Force investigators blamed the mishaps on pilot error, mechanical failure, software glitches and poor coordination with civilian air-traffic controllers. U.S. drone crews in Djibouti, where five Predator drones have crashed, singled out Djiboutians as a factor, complaining they speak poor English, are "short-tempered" and are uncomfortable having Predators in their airspace. (*The Washington Post*)

Britain's Cambridge University is opening a center for leading academics to study the threats that robots pose to humanity. Other threats being studied are climate change, nuclear war and rogue biotechnology. The co-founder of Centre for the Study of Existential Risk is Lord Rees, whose 2003 book *Our Final Century* warned that the human species would wipe itself out by 2100. (Britain's *Daily Mail*)

Inflated statistics

The surge in popularity of inflatable bounce houses in the United States corresponds to a rash of related accidents. A nationwide study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found fewer than 1,000 reported bounce-house injuries in 1995 but nearly 11,000 in 2010. That averages 30 children a day being treated in emergency rooms for broken bones, sprains, cuts and concussions resulting from children falling inside or out of the bounce houses, or colliding with each other. More than one-third of the injured children are 5 and younger. (Associated Press)

Medical emergencies

After frequent attacks on doctors, Indian hospitals started hiring well-built nightclub bouncers, bodyguards and wrestlers to keep order in emergency rooms and labor rooms. Relatives and friends often become agitated and go on rampages after patients die or are suspected of having been mistreated. Thousands of attacks occur in Indian hospitals every year, according to Dr. Narendra Saini of the Indian Medical Association, who noted families feel especially cheated at expensive hospitals, explaining, "They expect their patient to live because that's what they paid for." (Associated Press)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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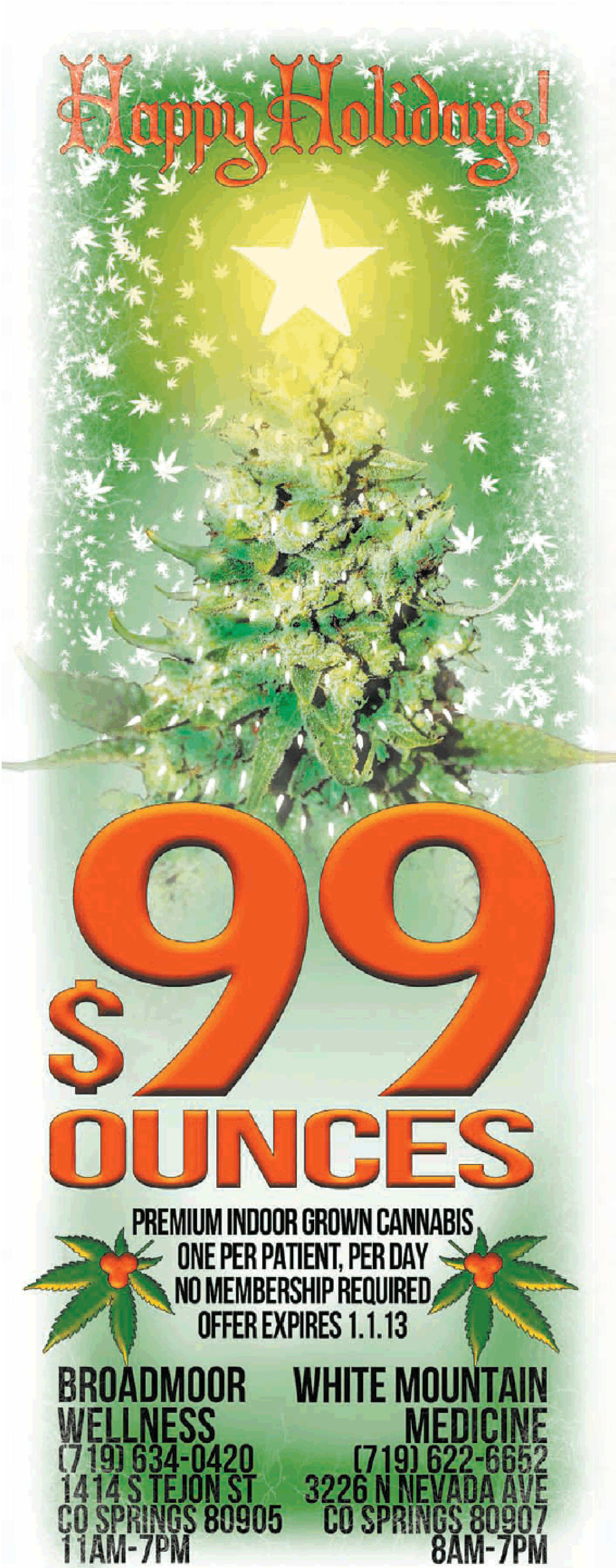
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Medical marijuana news of the week

Task Force trouble

"All stakeholders share an interest in creating efficient and effective regulations that provide for the responsible development of the new marijuana laws," reads the executive order declaring the creation of the Task Force on the Implementation of Amendment 64.

Not everyone is convinced, however, that all of Gov. John Hickenlooper's appointees to the Task Force will be working in good faith.

The appointees — bipartisan legislators, lawyers, experts and advocates, 24 strong — include Tamra Ward, CEO of Colorado Concern, a business alliance. The Colorado Springs Medical Cannabis Council, in a letter addressed to the Governor's Legal Counsel, points to a document signed by Ward and 17 other Colorado business leaders urging U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to enforce the federal-level Controlled Substances Act and "vigorously enforce the CSA against those individuals and organizations that possess, manufacture, or distribute marijuana for recreational use, even if such activities are permitted under state law."

According to the state release, Ward's role on the Task Force will be to represent the interests of "employers." CSMCC's Mark Slaugh, in an interview with the *Indy*, characterizes Ward and her fellow anti-legalization partisans as solely representing "large, regional" businesses, as opposed to the small businesses that he says comprise most of the job creation in Colorado. CSMCC's letter "suggests" replacing Ward with someone who represents a small-business coalition.

Moreover, there's the whole democracy thing. "Fifty-five percent of Coloradans voted to regulate marijuana like alcohol," says Slaugh. "[Ward] signed off on this letter requesting the Department of Justice to enforce federal law over the will of the people." That letter asked the DOJ to do so to provide a "bright line" of "clarity" and "certainty" for employers. Slaugh called this a misunderstanding of Amendment 64, which he says, "in no way ... affects private employment practices."

For her part, Ward declines comment, adding only in an e-mail that she "[understands] the scope of the Task Force, and the responsibilities as outlined by Governor Hickenlooper ... to represent Colorado's business community in this process."

Keef crumbs

- The aforementioned task force began work Monday on developing regulations for legalized cannabis, reports the *Denver Post*. Sexier topics include the potential legality of "Amsterdam-style" marijuana clubs.
- *Westword* reports that Republican state Sen. Steve King will propose, for the third year running, legislation rigidly defining THC intoxication — again as 5 nanograms or more per milliliter of blood. The new legislation, however, reportedly permits a "permissible inference" defense, allowing juries to consider evidence showing that drivers testing above the limit (heavy-dosage users, tested days after ingesting any THC, for example) were not, in fact, impaired.

— Wyatt Miller

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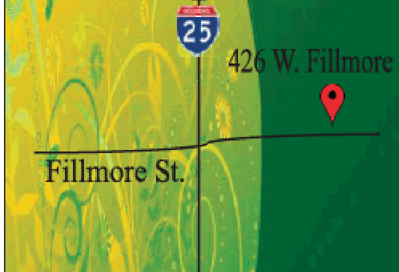

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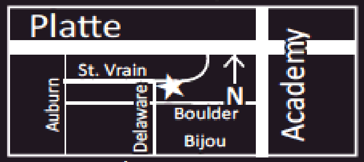

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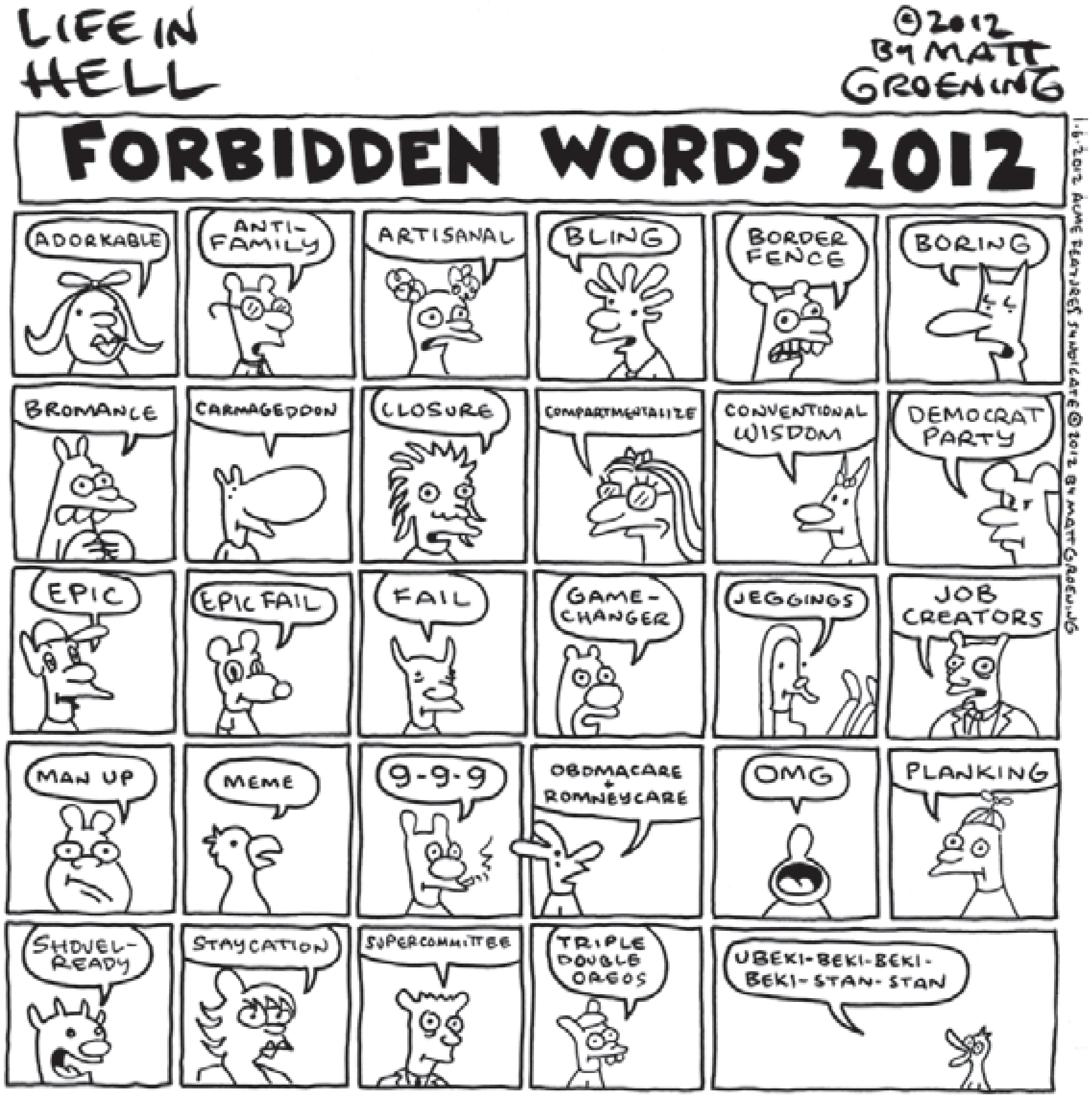

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

The happiest place on girth

I started taking medication that makes me fat — about 80 pounds overweight, which is a lot on a 5-foot-7-inch female frame. Cutting calories and exercising will not change this, and I cannot stop taking this drug. It alleviates a serious mental health problem, allowing me to function normally, which is pretty much a miracle. Still, thanks to my weight gain, I am getting super-depressed. I think people must look at me like I'm some undisciplined pig. My cute clothes no longer fit, so I bought clothes that hide the weight. I'd love to date, but I'm so uncomfortable looking at myself naked that I can't imagine letting anyone else do it — Ballooned

It isn't fair. It's not like you spent the year locked in a room with Ben and Jerry and Colonel Sanders, yet here you are thinking people must look at your butt and wonder whether you beep when you back up.

Although you say cutting calories doesn't help, you should ask your doctor whether cutting carbs might. There's evidence that a low-carb diet (with adequate fat intake) is the best way for most people to lose and keep off weight. It also seems to alleviate or even beat down some diseases — for example, eliminating diabetes symptoms in Dr. Jay Wortman and very possibly being responsible for the reversal in progressive multiple sclerosis symptoms in Dr. Terry Wahls. (See drjaywortman.com and terrywahls.com, and read *Why We Get Fat*, by Gary Taubes, for the dietary evidence based on his vetting of thousands of studies.)

Work on adjusting both your head and your appearance.

But, let's say there's no way for you to lose the weight. Well-meaning friends will tell you things like "sexy is a state of mind," which will seem like the dumbest thing you've ever heard in light of how you probably feel you resemble the state of Texas. Actually, there are decades of studies showing that "walking the walk" — acting the way you'd like to feel — is one of the most effective ways to change how you feel.

For example, experimental social psychologist Dr. Dana R. Carney had people assume power-broker poses like sitting with their hands behind their head and their feet up on a desk. Subjects only assumed two different poses for a total of two minutes, but this led to measurable psychological, biochemical and behavioral changes. Those who were assigned the power poses had their levels of the dominance hormone testosterone shoot up. They reported feeling significantly more powerful and "in charge," and their willingness to take risks in a subsequent gambling test suggests that they meaningfully increased their confidence.

Findings like Carney's make the "just walk the walk" advice I found in the book *Stop Calling Him Honey* sound a lot more hopeful than hokey. The co-authors, Maggie Arana and Julienne Davis, advise body-loathing women (of all sizes) who want to feel sexy to strut naked, in high heels, in front of their mirror. They tell you to watch yourself running your hands up and down your bare skin, tell yourself, "I'm sexy," and really mean it, feel it — and to keep at it until it eventually starts to ring true.

If that still sounds like a fool's errand (even with the help of Jose Cuervo and James Brown), it might help to have a role model. Look up YouTube videos of 200-plus-pound indie rocker Beth Ditto, who struts around in body-hugging dresses, corsets and fishnets like she invented sexy. Beth Ditto's fatitude inspired Nikki, a friend of Arana and Davis', to start walking tall and wide in form-fitting, cleavage-baring clothes instead of dressing like she's apologizing for not being built like a paper cut.

And sure, there are a lot of guys who won't date above a size 8 or 10, but you don't need to attract "a lot of guys" unless you're opening a sports bar. There are men who prefer the larger ladies and those who don't have a stringent requirement for any sort of body size, but what no guy wants is a woman who's piled on the shame.

Work on adjusting both your head and your appearance. Spend money on your hair, makeup and a new wardrobe— no tentwear! — and go to one of those bra specialty stores where a little old Hungarian lady will yank you into a bra that fits. And keep in mind that in a world of people shoving their problems behind the furniture (especially stigmatized problems like mental health issues), you're doing what it takes to be mentally healthy and functional. If you look at your weight from this angle, it seems you've got good reason to march through the world like you're all that and 80 pounds more o' that.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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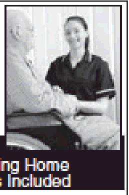

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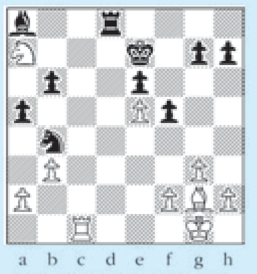

WHITE WINS MATERIAL

Hint: Block the defender.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

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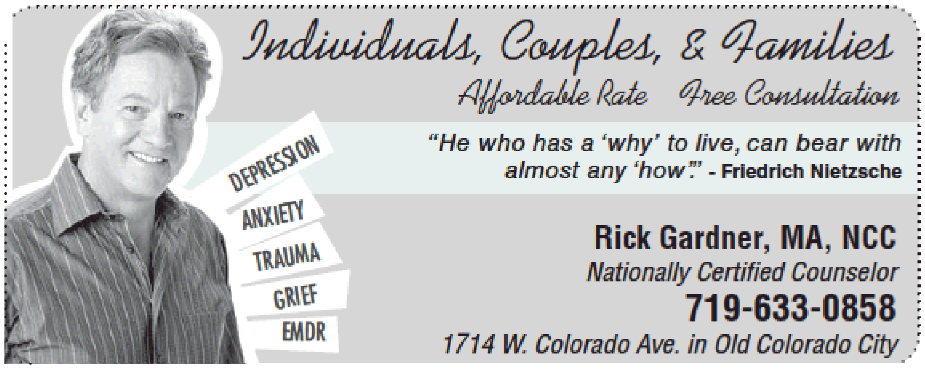
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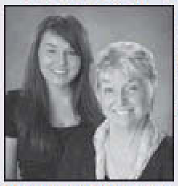

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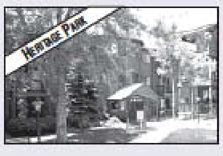

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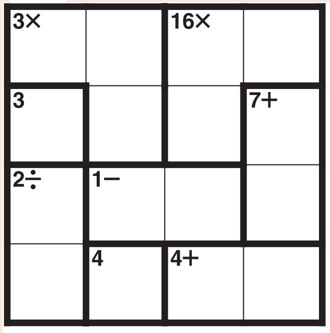

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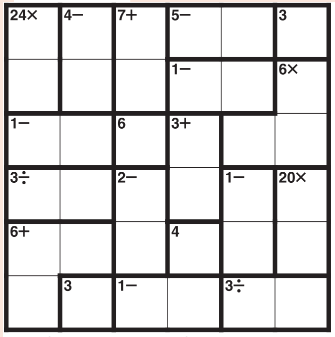
CHALLENGING



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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

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RULES

① Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
② The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
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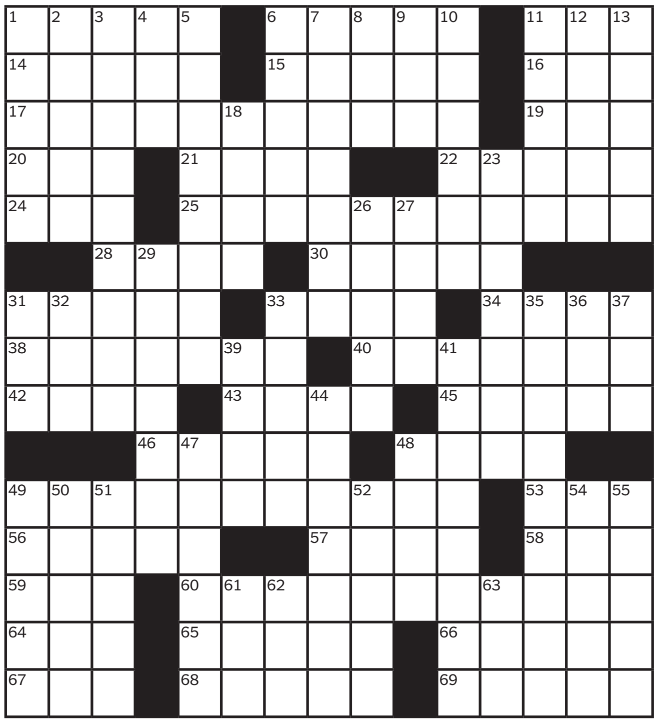

ACROSS

1 Excited, informally
6 Katey of "Married … With Children"
11 What a clock checker might want to know, in brief
14 Jazzman Chick
15 Science suffix
16 Chit
17 Aid for skipping out of school?
19 Physics unit
20 What opens and closes safes?
21 "Try ___"
22 "If only"
24 Susan of "The Partridge Family"
25 Sharp-edged plant growth?
28 Blabber's opposite
30 Connect with
31 Dutifully reverent
33 Actress Suvari, co-star of "American Pie"
34 "Jeepers!"
38 Herbal drink
40 Allies of the Cheyenne
42 Emphatic Spanish assent
43 Rockets' paths
45 1950s coup victim
46 Opera ___
48 Did 80, say
49 Shipment of noisemakers, e.g.?
53 Running back's stat: Abbr.
56 "You win"
57 Novelist Morrison
58 One shooting the breeze?
59 "___ your lip!"
60 Area of town where the supernatural hang out?
64 Final letter
65 Up to
66 Auto-racing family name
67 Y : Spanish :: ___ : English
68 Daft
69 First Top 40 hit for Weird Al Yankovic

DOWN

1 Needed a massage, say
2 State animal of Maine
3 Prisoners who write tediously?
4 Reggae's ___-A-Mouse
5 A previous time
6 "Same goes for me"
7 Spaghetti specification
8 Mount Olympus dweller
9 Bio figure
10 Apollo, for one, musically speaking
11 Children's song refrain
12 Arms flank it
13 Zero
18 Tapestry-making device
23 Shout of exuberance
26 "Tony n' ___ Wedding"
27 Wine bottle datum
29 Minstrels, often
31 U.K. V.I.P.'s
32 First Super Bowl that was actually called a Super Bowl
33 Santa ___
35 Robust religious observance?
36 Old unit of conductance
37 In the distance
39 Dodge bullet dodger
41 Sewn-on decoration
44 Traditional family vacation
47 Quite the looker
48 D.C. 100: Abbr.
49 Something delivered in a box
50 Not native
51 Cordoned (off)
52 With faux shyness
54 Words before ask or suggest
55 Comic strip canine
61 "I'll take that as ___"
62 Skater Midori
63 Italian article

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 62

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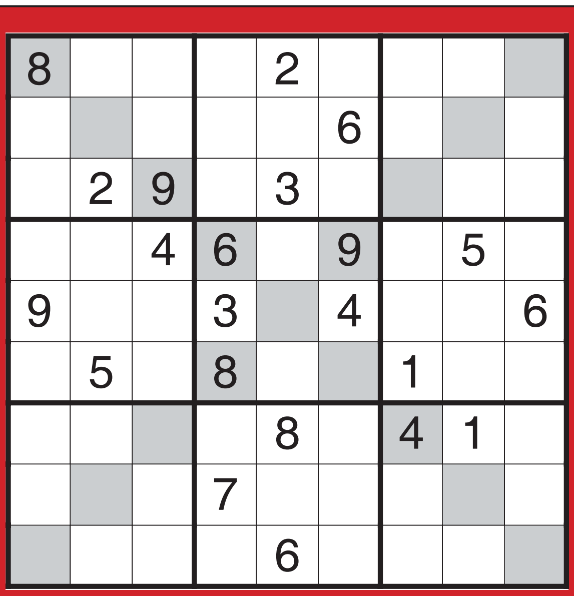

8				2				
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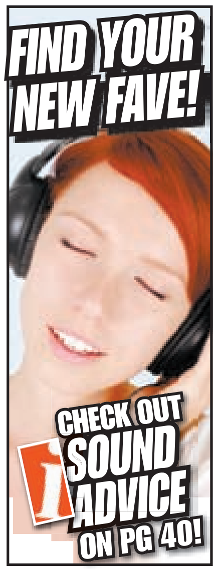
SUDUKO X

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 62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Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In 2013, I pledge to conspire with you to achieve more mixtures, connections, accords and unifications than you ever thought possible. I will furthermore be a fount of suggestions about how you can live well in two worlds. I will coach you to create a peace treaty with your evil twin and your nemesis, and I will help you develop a knack for steering clear of other people's bad ideas and sour moods. I can't, of course, guarantee that you will never again experience a broken heart, but I swear I will do everything I can do to heal the broken part of your heart that you've been suffering from.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Isaac Newton is regarded as one of the most influential scientists in history. But the time he spent as a member of the English Parliament was undistinguished. The only public comment he ever made while serving there was a request to close the window because he was cold. Basketball star Michael Jordan had a similar schism. In the prime of his outstanding career, he took a year off to try playing baseball, which he did poorly. After analyzing 2013's astrological aspects, Aries, I'm guessing that you should cultivate a firm intention to avoid doing what Newton and Jordan did. Keep playing to your strengths and emphasizing what you love. Don't get sidetracked by peripheral concerns.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In 2013, I'd like to help you cultivate an even more reliable relationship with your intuitions and hunches than you already have. You may not need much guidance from me, since the astrological omens indicate this will happen quite naturally. There's another kind of inspiration I hope to offer you in the coming months: clues about how to be "bad" in ways that will give your goodness more vigor. And when I say "bad," I'm not referring to nastiness or insensitivity, but rather to wildness and playfulness and experimentation. Here's one further service I want to provide, Taurus: helping you build a greater capacity to receive gifts, blessings and support.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the year 1900, few people believed that human beings would ever fly through the sky in machines. Most scientists thought that such a feat was impossible. For years, the Wright Brothers had a hard time convincing anyone to believe their flights were actually taking place, even though they had photos and witness reports as documentation. Although the leap you'll be capable of in 2013 isn't quite as monumental as the Wright Brothers', it could be pretty important in the history of your own life. You may also have to deal with skepticism akin to what they had to face. Be true to your vision, Gemini!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In 2013, I predict you will see why it's wise to phase out an influence you have loved to hate for far too long. Uncoincidentally, you will also have a talent for purging emotional burdens and psychic debris that you've been holding on to since the bad old days. No later than your birthday, if all goes well, you will be free from a subtle curse you've been casting on yourself; you will finally be attending to one of your long-neglected needs; and you will have turned some rather gawky, half-assed wizardry into a smooth and silky magic.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): In 2013, I pledge to help you raise your lovability. It's not that you are unlovable now, of course, but there's always room for improvement, right? And if people become even more attracted to you than they already are, then you're likely to get a lot of collaborative and cooperative work done. You will thrive as you and your allies work on projects that make your corner of the world a better and more interesting place. So what are the first three actions you could take to raise your lovability?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): First question: Have you ever thought to yourself, "I'm afraid I will never achieve my noblest dreams or live according to my highest ideas"? Answer: There's a very good chance that in the coming year you will banish that fear from the sacred temple of your imagination. Second question: Have you ever wondered if maybe you unconsciously undermine the efforts of people who are trying to assist you? Answer: In the coming months you should discover exactly what to do to prevent such a thing from happening. Third question: Do you know the single most important question you should be asking in 2013? Answer: I predict you will figure that out sometime in the next three weeks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 2013, I will be encouraging you to journey into the frontiers and experiment with the unknown. I will seek to inspire you to go in search of teachings you've needed for a long time. Are you ready for this expansion, Libra? Are you feeling a natural urge to explore forbidden zones and discover missing secrets and mess with your outmoded taboos? As you might imagine, doing this work would motivate you to develop a healthier relationship with your fears. To bolster your courage, I suggest you find some new freedom songs to sing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In 2013, I will do what I can to ensure that your fiscal biorhythms are in close alignment with the universal cash flow. You should have pretty good instincts about this worthy project yourself, Scorpio. And so there's an excellent chance that your wealth will increase. The upgrade will be especially dramatic if you are constantly scheming about how you can share your riches and benefit other people with your generosity. I think there will also be an interesting fringe benefit if you maintain maximum integrity as you enhance your access to valuable resources: You will develop a more useful relationship with your obsessive tendencies.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When he was 21, the Capricorn writer Jack London set off to prospect for gold in the 1897 Klondike Gold Rush. He had a rough time there. Malnourished, he suffered from scurvy and leg pain. To make matters worse, he didn't find much gold, and returned home broke. On the other hand, he met scores of adventure seekers who told him stories of their travels. These tales served as rich raw material for his novel *The Call of the Wild*, published in 1903. It made him famous and is generally regarded as his masterpiece. I'm guessing you will begin a similar trajectory in 2013, Capricorn. Events that may at first seem less than successful will ultimately breed a big breakthrough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I can't force you to seek more pleasure in 2013. I won't nag you to play harder and explore the frontiers of feeling really good. However, I will say this: If you don't plan to put yourself into at least partial alignment with the cosmic mandate to have maximum fun, you may not get the best use out of the advice I'll be offering though my horoscopes in the coming year. Please consider the possibility of ramping up your capacity for pure enjoyment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The study of ancient Mayan civilization owes a lot to the fact that Americans started buying lots of chewing gum in the late 19th century. Huh? Here's the connection: For a long time, chicle was one of the prime ingredients in Chiclets, Juicy Fruit, Bazooka bubble gum, and many other brands of chewing gum. Chicle is obtained from the sap of sapodilla trees, which grow in abundance in Central America and Mexico. Over the decades, workers harvesting the chicle accidentally found many Mayan ruins covered in overgrown vegetation, then told archaeologists about their discoveries. I foresee a metaphorically comparable sequence happening in your life during 2013. In unexpected ways, you will be put back in touch with and benefit from lost, forgotten or unexplored parts of the past.

HOMEWORK: What's the best gift you could give yourself this holiday season? Testify at freewillastrology.com.

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny's **EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES** and **DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES**. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at **1-877-873-4888** or 1-900-950-7700.

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This week's answers

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8	6	5	1	2	7	9	4	3
3	1	7	9	4	6	8	2	5
4	2	9	5	3	8	7	6	1
2	7	4	6	1	9	3	5	8
9	8	1	3	5	4	2	7	6
6	5	3	8	7	2	1	9	4
7	3	6	2	8	5	4	1	9
5	4	8	7	9	1	6	3	2
1	9	2	4	6	3	5	8	7

KENKEN

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6	1	5	1– 3	4	6× 2
1– 5	4	6 6	3+ 2	3	1
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6+ 3	2	1	4 4	6	5
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3× 1	3	16× 4	2
3 3	1	2	7+ 4
2÷ 4	1– 2	1	3
2	4 4	4+ 3	1

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Crossword

A	M	P	E	D	■	S	A	G	A	L	■	E	T	A
C	O	R	E	A	■	O	L	O	G	Y	■	I	O	U
H	O	O	K	Y	L	A	D	D	E	R	■	E	R	G
E	S	S	■	S	O	M	E	■	■	I	W	I	S	H
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P	I	O	U	S	■	M	E	N	A	■	O	H	M	Y
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S	I	S	I	■	A	R	C	S	■	P	E	R	O	N
■	■	■	S	E	R	I	A	■	S	P	E	D	■	■
P	A	R	T	Y	P	A	R	C	E	L	■	Y	D	S
I	L	O	S	E	■	■	T	O	N	I	■	F	A	N
Z	I	P	■	F	A	I	R	Y	S	Q	U	A	R	E
Z	E	E	■	U	N	T	I	L	■	U	N	S	E	R
A	N	D	■	L	O	O	P	Y	■	E	A	T	I	T

CHESS QUIZ

From page 58:
1. Nc8ch! Rxc8 2. Rxc8. Or 1. … Kd7 2. Nxb6ch Ke7 Nxa8. Or 1. … Ke8 2. Bxa8 [Jakovenko-Bareev '12].

EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Broncomania vs. the real NFL

Several days ago, a longtime reader who demands to remain anonymous ("because my conservative friends would not like seeing my name in the *Independent*") came up at a holiday function and wanted to talk — about sports.

"Isn't it amazing how much the Denver Broncos still affect the mental health of this state?" he began. "I know so many Bronco fans who are very happy right now. But I remember just a couple months ago when Denver was 2-3, all I could think about was how this was such a horrible time for the National Football League."

He talked about how the New Orleans bounty scandal had left him with a sour taste, realizing that players actually received bonuses for taking out star players from opposing teams. His ill feelings were heightened by the fast-mounting evidence that many former NFL players have been (and obviously still are) suffering from the after-effects of multiple concussions and head injuries.

"But then the Broncos started winning," he said, "and nobody seemed to care anymore. Now there are millions of us who are convinced this is one of the greatest football seasons ever, at least since **John Elway** retired."

I brought up two of the latest episodes, just a week apart, that suggest something is very wrong in the NFL. First, the shocking murder-suicide in Kansas City, as Chiefs linebacker **Jovan Belcher** shot his girlfriend to death — in front of her mother — and then took his own life in front of team officials. Then, the story of Dallas players behaving badly, with heavily inebriated defensive lineman **Josh Brent** wrecking his car and killing linebacker **Jerry Brown**. (And after all that, the Cowboys let Brent stand on their sideline Sunday for their game against Pittsburgh.)

SPORTS SHOT

Historic That women's basketball win by the University of Colorado last weekend against highly ranked Louisville was CU's biggest women's victory since longtime coach Ceal Barry retired in 2005.

Just watch With the Big East on the brink of collapse, we might see Boise State and San Diego State return to the Mountain West Conference, perhaps joined by now-independent Brigham Young.

Wondering Just once, it'd be nice to see the Colorado Rockies go after veteran free agents like third baseman Kevin Youkilis, who just opted for the New York Yankees.

Good outlook After playing 18 of their first 25 on the road, the Denver Nuggets began this week 13-12 with seven road wins.

Let's see, that's a bounty scandal, too many concussions to count, a murder-suicide and intoxication manslaughter. Are we having fun yet?

Depends. In Kansas City, with a 2-12 record amid that senseless tragedy, you might find longtime fans ready to do away with pro football. In Dallas, we hear that many are shrugging it off as "Boys will be boys" because, hey, the Cowboys have won five out of six and are playoff contenders. Can't let anything spoil that, right?

My acquaintance could understand. But all he wanted to talk about was the Broncos: how **Peyton Manning** has proved so many people wrong, how defensive coordinator **Jack Del Rio** has made such a difference, how **Knowshon Moreno** and **Ronnie Hillman** are among the NFL's best young running backs, and how Denver's destined for the Super Bowl.

"Dammit, Ralph, don't spoil this for all of us Bronco fans," he said. "We can worry about that bad stuff in March and April. Not now, OK?"

Granted, it's rare that any team experiences what Denver has in turning 2-3 into 11-3. And yes, it'll be interesting to see how far Manning can take the Broncos in the playoffs, especially if they earn a first-round bye.

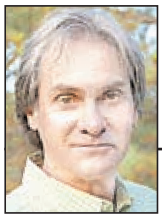
But you still can't help but wonder whether the NFL is endangered. As potentially damaging as the bounty issue already has been, other teams may be found to have had similar reward programs. The antics by overpaid players, who don't seek (and aren't forced to receive) mental-health help, should be accelerating the league toward a crisis point. And the prospect of a class-action lawsuit by former players, who might be able to prove that the league knew about the rising concussion problem but ignored it, could undermine the multibillion-dollar industry.

"Go ahead, write about all that crap," my buddy the reader said. "But just watch, nothing's going to change. Nothing."

I think he's wrong. I think the NFL has lost its way — lost its moral standards, integrity and sense of accountability to anyone. What will it take to change all that? Perhaps a federal court, or Congress, ordering the league to shut down for a year or more, until it can fix its problems and start over.

Go ahead, call me crazy. Just don't be surprised if it happens.

— routon@csindy.com



RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

The way of the gun

Nancy Lanza, executed with four rifle blasts to the face as she slept in her bed in a woodsy Connecticut village called Newtown, was a gun enthusiast. Turns out, so was her son.

Today, as the storm of sadness still pounds away at our hearts, days after gun enthusiast **Adam Lanza** brought his friendless, creepy life to an end with an explosion of evil at Sandy Hook Elementary School, perhaps it's time for a discussion about this gun-enthusiast business. Let me begin.

If you own an assault weapon or a large-capacity clip that holds 10 or more bullets, gaze for a moment at the photo of 6-year-old **Noah Pozner**, one of the 20 Sandy Hook kids butchered by flesh-exploding, bone-shattering bullets. Look closely at his face, his dark brown eyes, his mischievous little grin.

If you sell such guns or high-capacity clips, as many gun shops do right here in our little village, their ads boasting of AR-15s and muzzle suppressors and short-barreled rifles and monstrous Magpul AR-15 magazines, look today at a newspaper photo of **Jessica Rekos**, who was also 6.

Take pause, gun dealers, at her beauty and the little-girl smile that briefly lit up the world. She loved horses and had just asked Santa for cowgirl boots and a hat. Her parents told her she could have a horse when she turned 10. Now, Jessica will never have a horse. Or a prom or a graduation or a wedding or her own children. What she will have, sometime this week, is a funeral.

'We can't tolerate this anymore.'

If you support the almighty National Rifle Association and its policy of absolutely no gun control, no limits, no restrictions whatsoever on the firepower you can own, take a moment to meet **Vicki Soto**, the teacher who so loved those kids that she put herself between them and the bullets and died in a horrible bloody mess. She was 27.

If you voted for **Doug Lamborn** or **Bill Cadman** or **Bob Gardner**, three deep thinkers from right here in our town, stare at the ear-to-ear grin on the face of **Olivia Engel**, also 6, who died in a barrage of those special expanding, flesh-mulching bullets that we can legally purchase.

Lamborn, our congressman, met with the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition earlier this year and sold them whatever remained of his soul — proposing that convicted felons, even the most depraved and violent, be given the right to own guns when they get out of prison. A throng of losers stood and cheered.

The day before Sandy Hook, four people in Denver were set on fire after being sprayed with gasoline. Cadman, the state Senate minority leader from Colorado Springs (of course), responded to the Connecticut massacre by saying: "Four people were set on fire in Denver on Thursday. Should we ban lighters?"

State Rep. Gardner said the school shooting "becomes really one more really sad and tragic instance where those who are advocating for greater gun control will point to it as the reason we ought to do that."

Plato, **Aristotle** and **Socrates**. The next time you slap one of their bumper stickers on your car and pound the extreme right-wing Republican Second Amendment drum, I hope you see the dazzling blue eyes of Sandy Hook first-grader **Emilie Parker**. Her father said that on the morning she died, as he left for work, she hugged him and gave him a kiss.

See, too, the now-extinguished light in the small eyes of **Charlotte Bacon, Daniel Barden, Josephine Gay, Ana Marquez-Greene, Catherine Hubbard, Jesse Lewis, Grace McDonnell, Caroline Previdi, Madeleine Hsu, Chase Kowalski, James Mattioli, Dylan Hockley, Jack Pinto, Avielle Richman, Benjamin Wheeler** and **Allison Wyatt**.

And think of their parents. Not one will ever come all the way back.

"We can't tolerate this anymore," **President Obama** said. "These tragedies must end. And to end them, we must change."

If you own a weapon designed for human killing, or a large-capacity clip with the lone purpose of inflicting death upon masses, or sell such things, or you worship the steel-hearted NRA or vote for politicians in the gun-lobby's pockets or think "gun enthusiast" has a nice ring to it, look in the mirror.

The change needs to start with you.

Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the **Denver Post**.

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